

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLVI.]

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 23.

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MARRIAGES.

At All Saints' Church, Tientsin, on the 8th November, by the Rev. Frank L. Norris, THOMAS PRESTON, of the Imperial Chinese Railways, to ELIZABETH ALDREN, of Dalton-in-Furness, Lancashire, England.

On the 9th November, at All Saints' Church, Tientsin, by the Rev. Frank L. Norris, FREDERICK EDGAR WILKINSON, of H.B.M.'s Consular Service, to MARGARET, second daughter of Robert WILLIAMS, of Shanghai.

On the 17th November, at the Swiss Consulate, Yokohama, by R. Kallen, Esq. (H.I.G.M.'s Vice Consul-General), Acting Swiss Consul, and afterwards at Christ Church, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irvine, M.A., PAUL LOUIS, son of Professor BENJAMIN VAUTIER, of Düsseldorf, to GLADYS MARGARET, daughter of Charles D. Moss, of Yokohama.

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On the 23rd November, at Union Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. G. J. Williams, DUNCAN CLARK, to DAISY, daughter of D. R. CRAWFORD, Esq.

On the 23rd November, 1897, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, and after-

wards at the Cathedral by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., HARRY CLAPP, of Shanghai, to AGNES BESSIE, second daughter of John Youngs GOULD, of Shanghai.

On the 24th November, 1897, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, and afterwards at the Cathedral by the Rev. C. J. Symons, M.A., FREDERICK ALBERT, youngest son of the late Antony Field SAMPSON, of Hongkong, to MARGARET LUCAS, second daughter of James PHILLIPS, F.C.S., of Clifton, Bristol.

DEATHS.

At Tokio, on the 13th November, CHARLES S. HESS, a native of Switzerland, in his 6th year.

At No. 31, Oura, Nagasaki, on the 16th November, ALLEN KENNEDY, aged 8 years, after a long illness.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 18th November, 1897, MARIAN, the beloved wife of Wm. BOND, of the I.M. Customs, aged 57 years.

Mr. MYRTLE OPPENHEIMER, at Paris, on 18th November. — By telegram.

On the 23rd November, at Yokohama, suddenly, ARTHUR E. MONROE, of E. T. Mason & Co. of Yokohama.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 24th November, 1897, EDWARD ROSQVIST, Yangtze Pilot, aged 56 years.

At the Peak Hospital, on the 29th November, C. IMBAULT-HUART, Consul for France, Canton.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 29th October arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Mirzapore*, on the 28th November (30 days); the American mail of the 30th October arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Belgie*, on the 29th November (30 days); and the Canadian mail of the 8th November arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 30th November (22 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Fifteen Chinese were burnt to death in a fire at 64, Third Street, Hongkong, on the 23rd November.

Dr. O. Stuebel, Consul-General for Germany at Shanghai, is likely to be transferred early in the coming year.

Telegraphic communication has been established between the Islands of Luzon, Panay, Negros, and Cebu.

Sir Ernest Satow, H.B.M. Minister to Japan, arrived at Yokohama on the 21st November in the *Empress of Japan*.

The Secretary of State has confirmed the dismissals from the Hongkong Public Service in connection with the bribery scandal.

In response to the requests of the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and Sheng Taotai the authorities of the Foochow naval school have sent ten students up to Hankow to assist in the construction of the Lu-Han Railway.—*China Gazette*.

News has been received of the promotion of Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Buller to the rank of Admiral. His Excellency is to be succeeded in the command of the China station by Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Hobart Seymour, who is expected to arrive in January.

Mr. Bryan, of Chicago, has been appointed Minister for the United States at Peking, to succeed the present incumbent of the post, Colonel Denby.

A correspondent in Formosa writes:—The south is dead, but the north is booming. Building is going on on all sides, rates double and treble the old rates, and Jardines are erecting, a place which will be the largest foreign hong in the island. Smith, Baker & Co. are also enlarging their quarters.

M. C. Imbault Huart, French Consul at Canton, died at the Peak Hospital, Hongkong, on the 29th November, from an attack of dysentery complicated with disease of the liver. M. Huart was a capable official and an accomplished Chinese scholar and socially he was popular with all nationalities.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 19th November states that a further protest against the annexation of Hawaii by the United States is to be forwarded to Washington on the 20th by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. In this protest the Japanese Government declares itself to be absolutely opposed to such annexation.

Judgment was given in the Supreme Court at Yokohama on the 16th November in the *Melpomene-Patroclus* collision case by Judge Wilkinson. The concluding paragraph of the judgment was as follows:—On the whole, then, I pronounce both vessels to blame for the damages. The damages to the *Melpomene* occasioned by the collision are therefore to be borne equally by the owners of the *Melpomene* and the owners of the *Patroclus*; and the defendants and their bail are condemned in a moiety of the plaintiff's claim in respect of such damages. The damages will be referred to the Registrar to assess the amount. There will be no order as to costs.

The Singapore Chamber of Commerce invites its members to send, in writing, criticisms of, or questions about, the Sub-Committee's gold dollar scheme. In an article on the subject the *Straits Times* says:—The currency scheme has, in its favour, some chance of Siamese support. It was pointed out the other day by Mr. A. Huttenbach, in our columns, that Siam holds a strong relation in the position. In his opinion, Singapore currency reform would be inoperative should Siam keep to a silver basis. Opinion at Bangkok, judging from newspaper utterances, seems inclined to follow Singapore's lead. In other words, it is presumed there that, should Singapore adopt the gold dollar, the Siamese tical must be put upon a gold basis.

The *China Gazette* says:—According to some Nanking correspondence in the native papers, the Viceroy Liu Kung-yi, has received secret instructions by telegraph from Peking to take immediate measures for the defence of all the forts within his sphere of jurisdiction, in accordance with which he has sent a General Liu to take over command of the Woosung forts, and has sent strong re-inforcements to the garrison there. On the 19th and 20th inst., the Tsungli Yamen and the Peiyang Trade Superintendent wired the Viceroy word that serious complications between Germany and China had arisen in Shantung, and that further attacks by German or other foreign forces might be anticipated. He was therefore to make every preparation along the Nanyang coasts to meet hostilities should any ensue.

THE PARTITIONING OF CHINA.

The report to which REUTER gives currency in his message dated the 28th November, to the effect that "Russia has acquiesced in the German occupation of Kiaochau," provided she has a free hand in Korea" would seem to indicate, if true, that the partition of the Celestial Empire has actually commenced. If this comes to pass the Manchu Government of China will only have themselves to their blame. After first lesson, given by Great Britain in 1841-2, they had plenty of time and numerous opportunities of learning wisdom in their treatment of Foreign Powers, but they profited so little by them that in 1859-60 it became necessary to repeat the lesson, France on this occasion taking part in the hostilities. Again the rulers of China, though humiliated, soon forgot the chastisement then received and grew arrogant because England and the other Treaty Powers treated them first with indulgence to enable them to recover from its effects, and subsequently with undue forbearance for various reasons not very creditable to Western diplomacy. China meantime acquired a small Navy and was supposed to possess an army and large armaments. Once more presuming upon a diplomatic victory over Russia, in getting that Power to retrocede Kashgaria, and a drawn game with France, whose rulers were afraid to adopt any but half measures in their quarrel with China in 1884-5, the Peking Government waxed insolent and defiant, and when Japan showed a determination to coerce Korea to carry out the conditions of the Treaty, they drifted into war with the island Empire, although, thanks to the corruption of their officials, they were wholly unprepared for it. The Japanese meantime, instead of wasting their substance as was done by LI HUNG-CHANG and his unscrupulous gang, had utilised their resources and improved their opportunities to acquire a navy and to organise a disciplined army, with which they were able to give so good an account of the Chinese forces to bring as the Peking Government to their knees. It is true that the Japanese were robbed of some of the fruits of their victory by the action of certain of the Western Powers at the close of the war, but they at any rate demonstrated their immeasurable superiority to the boastful braggarts who were responsible for this huge disaster to China. They also unconsciously performed a signal service to civilisation by pricking the great Chinese bubble, by tearing away the Dragon's scales which concealed the carcass of the silly sheep so much more emblematic of China.

It might have been supposed that even the fatuous rulers of China would have conked this last and direful lesson. But the Chinese mandarins are clearly incapable of taking any lesson to heart. Their armour of conceit is absolutely invulnerable; they are proof against all warnings and all teaching. They invariably mistake forbearance for weakness, consideration for pusillanimity, and they still cherish the illusion that they can play off one Power against the others in their dealings with Western States. They ignore the fact that their helplessness has been so thoroughly exposed to the world that it has become most risky and hazardous for them to attempt to try their old tactics with an exasperated and long enduring Foreign Minister. Nothing indeed could be so dangerous for China as to attempt to play fast and loose with a power like Germany. The recent impracticability of the Peking Government has already gone far to induce a belief among European States that China is not only

uncivilized but that she is wholly past reformation. She is so vast as to be unmanageable, and the only way to deal with her at all is to negotiate with the provincial authorities direct. The latter are certainly no better than the Tsung-li Yamen either in regard to intelligence or good faith, but they are at any rate more accessible. In future, a Power which has a grievance will go to settle it with the Viceroy of the province in which it originated, and continued contumacy or treachery may, and probably will, lead to the occupation and administration of various territories for the benefit of the injured state. This must end in a break up of the Chinese Empire, and the day is, perhaps, not so very distant when the eighteen provinces and the various tributary states will be partitioned up much as barbarous Africa has recently been divided off and re-coloured on the map.

Meantime Russia has practically though not avowedly commenced the work by her virtual occupation of Manchuria. In 1860 she acquired a large section of this country without a blow, the Chinese Government being then prostrate after the successes of the allied (Anglo-French) Forces. The great Slav Empire now requires a shoreward terminus for its Trans-Siberian Railway, and has found the most suitable one by carrying the line across Manchuria to the sea. To protect the railway a guard of Cossacks will be needed, remembering Chinese treachery and the tendency to destroy works of Western origin. That guard will remain, and the railway will continue the property of Russia, who will eventually annex Manchuria. Probably by that time there will be no Ta-tsing Dynasty to protest against this appropriation of their patrimony. Germany has effected her first foot-hold in Shantung, and in a port which rumour once gave as a contemplated Muscovite acquisition. But Russia now, it would seem, has other views. The Korean pie is nearly ready for the oven, and so long as Russia is not disturbed in the preparation of this dish she cares little what happens in Shantung. But what about France, her puissant ally? No doubt the Republic also has its little game to play. Yunnan and Szechuen are regarded by France as her special preserves, and if she is not obstructed in her efforts to open up Western China to trade she will not bother her head about what goes on so much nearer to the Great Bear's grand Park. The consent of Great Britain may or may not have been asked, but as the action of Germany has the approval of the *Times*, it will probably be acquiesced in by Lord SALISBURY, who will certainly not be disposed to move on behalf of a broken reed like China. The publication at this time of LI HUNG-CHANG's proposal for the reform of the army and navy of China, in which he calmly suggests the selection of Mirs Bay as one of three fortified naval stations, will also probably have convinced the British Government of the absolute necessity for acquiring the Kowloon hinterland for the protection of this colony. It is not impossible that the present juncture may be regarded as a favourable one for settling this matter finally.

On the 25th November, at the Shanghai Club, in the presence of a large gathering of prominent cross-country riders, Mr. F. J. Maitland was presented with a handsome silver bowl as a recognition of ten years' Mastership of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club. Mr. F. Ayscough, the new Master, made the presentation in particularly graceful terms, and the acceptance of it was marked by a sincerity which few such occasions evoke, Mr. Maitland's response being a genuinely affecting one.—*N. C. Daily News*.

TAXATION OF FOREIGN GOODS IN CHINA.

In a second letter by the Shanghai correspondent of the *Times* the question of the internal taxation of foreign goods is ably dealt with and a strict compliance with the terms of the treaty demanded. Unfortunately a reading of the treaty at variance alike with its letter and spirit has been adopted by the British Government, and the recovery of the ground so injudiciously surrendered will not be an easy task. The treaty says that goods having paid import duty and transit dues shall be free from all further charges whatsoever, but the British Government says, or did say thirty years ago, that when once the goods have passed out of the hands of the foreign importer they must take their chance in common with native goods and bear whatever impositions the rapacity or the necessities of Chinese administration may inflict. As all goods must necessarily pass into the hands of the native retail dealer before they reach the hands of the consumer it follows from this extraordinary reading of the treaty that they are all liable to unlimited taxation. The *Times*, in an article upon its correspondent's letters, says:—"To him who carefully considers the ways of the British Government the existence of the British Empire must always be a very surprising phenomenon"—a reflection with which we in Hongkong can very cordially agree—and that the letters under notice "give a succinct but vivid account of the history of British trade with China which represents with substantial accuracy the history of British empire-building as a whole. That trade is a monument of individual initiative and enterprise on the one hand, and of official incapacity to assist and profit by these things on the other." The great London organ recognises that in Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD we have a British Minister who understands how to deal with the Chinese, and after remarking that the whole question of taxation has been enveloped in clouds of diplomatic verbiage and confused dialectic, the article proceeds:—"These must be brushed aside. We have to go back to the letter and spirit of the stipulation under which taxation of English goods is an agreed percentage at the port of entry and nothing more." It is admitted that some case for a revision of the tariff may be made out, but "the rates, revised or not, must not any longer be subject to increase at the good pleasure of every corrupt official through whose district the goods have to pass." We are afraid, however, that the question is not a matter of such plain sailing as the *Times* would represent. If two litigants went into a court of law with an agreement and a clear declaration of the interpretation they mutually placed upon the agreement the one who sought to set aside that declaration of interpretation and adopt another and different interpretation, even though it were *prima facie* a more rational interpretation, would lose his case.

In the proclamations issued early this year recognising the validity of transit passes in Kwangtung and Kwangsi the claim to levy terminal taxation, so long as foreign goods were not differentiated against, was distinctly formulated. Against this the China Association protested in a letter to the Foreign Office dated 28th April, 1897, in which it was pointed out that the admission of the right of the Chinese to levy terminal taxation really permits them to collect, under the name of "destination dues," an amount calculated to reimburse them for the levies

they abandon *en route*. The letter shews clearly enough that the interpretation which has been placed upon the treaty is an erroneous one, but it fails to indicate in what way the Government can recede from the mistaken position assumed thirty years ago. The Association say, however, after referring to the misappropriation of the revenue derived from inland taxation on foreign goods:—"Those best disposed towards China—and 'foreign' residents in China are prevalently 'well disposed—plead the impossibility, in 'presence of this malversation, of treating 'her like a European Power. The fact 'must be realised that we are here in 'presence of 'a rapacity' which is only bounded 'by the limit of endurance in the trading 'class; and foreign residents are as impatient as they were thirty years ago of seeing their commerce restricted by exactions 'which they know to be in a 'large proportion wasted or misapplied.' They are 'persuaded that the only hope of financial 'salvation for China lies in such steady 'resistance to exaction as may compel administrative reform; and the phenomenal 'improvement effected in Korean finance 'during the brief period Mr. McLEAVY 'BROWN has been allowed a free hand may 'be contrasted with the present situation in 'China as an argument for the truth of this 'contention as opposed to the policy of tolerance laid down by the Board of Trade." Let the British Government, then, abandon the farce of dealing with Chinans with a European Power and inform her frankly that notwithstanding any previous admissions as to the right of terminal taxation such taxation must now be abandoned once and for all. If it is necessary to give reasons for this course the Chinese Government can be informed that the rapacity of its officials has passed all bounds formerly considered possible and that circumstances alter cases. If it be necessary, a revision of the tariff can then be taken into consideration, but the principle of one single payment clearing the goods from all further taxation should be insisted upon uncompromisingly.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

In the year 1891 official salaries in Hongkong were increased by 35 per cent. In 1894 a further increase took place in the salaries of a large number of officials under the name of exchange compensation, half their salaries being paid from that date at the rate of 3s. to the dollar. At the present rate of exchange this represents an increase of rather more than 25 per cent. on the nominal amount of the salary. Thus within the last seven years a large number of salaries have been increased in the aggregate by 70 per cent., or thereabouts. It will be convenient to give the figures by which this result is arrived at, taking \$100 as the unit. An official for each hundred dollars of his previous salary received in 1891 \$135; in 1894 he entered upon the enjoyment of exchange compensation, being allowed to draw half his salary at the fixed rate of 3s. to the dollar, so that when exchange is at 2s. he draws \$67½, being half his salary, in dollars net, and the other half at 3s., which equals \$101½, making a total of \$168½, or an increase of 68½ per cent. on the amount of the salary attaching to the same office in 1890. Exchange is now below 2s., so that the above figures are under the mark, and the net increase at the present time, as compared with 1890, may be taken in round figures as 70 per cent. Under these circumstances no one, we think, can say that the colony has dealt illiberally with its public servants in respect of the fall in exchange and the increased cost of

living. There are few outside the ranks of officials who have received anything like the same compensation and there are many who have received no compensation at all and have to support themselves and their families on the same dollar income as formerly. Moreover, public servants have their future provided for by a sterling pension, whereas non-officials, who have to make provision for their old age by savings out of income, have seen the sterling value of their capital steadily diminishing at a rate with which their annual savings in silver have in many cases been unable to keep pace. There has no doubt been an increase in the cost of living, for officials and non-officials alike, but hardly to the extent to which the former have been compensated for it. The officials have worked their grievance judiciously and have managed to come out of the controversy with something to the good, so that whereas the great mass of the population are in a worse position as regards the possible margin between income and expenditure than they were ten years ago the officials as a body are in a distinctly better position. We are aware that there are exceptions to the rule: men who maintain their families at home and have to remit more than half their income lose on the remainder, but the loss sustained by these is small as compared with that sustained by non-officials similarly circumstanced, who find themselves compelled not only to reduce their personal expenditure but also to reduce their home remittances. It would of course be a pleasant thing if incomes could be increased all round, but since that is impossible we fail to see why the official class should be more specially favoured than they are at present.

A number of applications for increase of salary having been received from members of the public service the applications were referred to a committee consisting of Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, Chief Justice, Hon. C. P. CHATER, Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, and Mr. T. JACKSON. The Chief Justice, Mr. CHATER, and Mr. JACKSON have presented a report which, if we may say so without offence, does more credit to their hearts than their heads, while Mr. WHITEHEAD presents a separate report, giving the practical view of the question. The majority report admits that if the fall in exchange and the increased cost of living were recognised as sufficient to justify an increase of salary in particular cases it is obvious that the same considerations would apply in the case of every officer in the public service. They think, however, that these considerations may properly be allowed some weight in certain special circumstances, and they instance "the case 'of a junior officer whose salary was fixed 'some years ago, when the value of the 'silver dollar was higher, and the cost of 'living, including house rent, was less, than 'they are now. His salary at that time was 'supposed to be adequate to enable him to 'maintain a standard of respectability suitable to his position. But his salary was 'small and probably was no more than sufficient for his needs. If this view is correct, 'it seems to follow that such an officer may 'be, and probably is, affected by the financial 'changes to which we are referring to such 'a degree that his salary no longer suffices 'to keep him in comfort and respectability." The Committee are of opinion that an officer so situated may fairly ask the Government to reconsider the question of his salary, and they have accordingly recommended moderate increases of salary in cases which appear to them to fall within this category. Now it seems to us that junior officers

answering to the description given are in the same category as snakes in Ireland—they are non-existent. It is only a few years since salaries were increased all round by thirty-five per cent., and since then an automatic increase has been established under the name of exchange compensation for the benefit of officers brought out from home. Also we may remark in passing that it is rather startling to have it suggested that the respectability of a man paid in silver diminishes *pari passu* with the diminishing value of the dollar. If that were really the case a large proportion of the population would be rapidly degenerating into disreputable characters. Proceeding to analyse the report further, we find that increases in the salaries of certain members of the Public Works Department are recommended for reasons which do not appear to be supported by the facts of the respective cases; other increases are recommended for purely sentimental reasons; and it is only in "a few instances" that increases are recommended on the only ground that can be considered valid, having regard to the financial position of the colony, namely, "because the salary of the office seems to 'us to be incommensurate with its duties 'and responsibilities, or because, as in the 'cases of some of the lower grade offices, 'the salary is appreciably less than that 'which is paid in the open market to 'persons performing similar duties."

Mr. WHITEHEAD, in his minority report, vetoes all increases on the ground of the colony's inability to bear increased expenditure. This view seems to have prevailed for the present, for at the meeting of the Finance Committee at which the Estimates for next year were considered it was stated that only one of the increases recommended in the majority report had been provided for, the case in question being that of one of the assistant engineers of the Public Works Department. H.E. the Governor, however, in his opening speech said he thought it right to state that, in his opinion, certain posts in the Civil Service were insufficiently paid, especially when compared with similar appointments in other colonies; and His Excellency trusted that it would be possible "to remedy this defect, 'and thus retain in Hongkong the services 'of experienced officers who might otherwise 'accept a transfer to colonies where they 'would be more highly remunerated." With that expression of opinion on record no doubt the agitation for increased remuneration in the Civil Service will be continued with greater force. In the meantime, however, it may be remarked that no indication is apparent of the approaching exodus of experienced officials prophesied by the Governor. Cynics may perhaps be inclined to say that such an exodus would not cause unmixed regret. The prophecy rather reminds one of the little boy's threat to run away from home, and is equally appropriately answered by the question "Where 'will you run to?" We are not aware that there is any feverish anxiety on the part of other colonies to accept a transfer of officials from Hongkong, but the officials are of course entitled, like other persons, to sell their labour in the best market they can find.

II.

Exception, we understand, has been taken to our remarks with reference to the salaries question, on the ground that we exaggerated the increase received in 1891. To prevent any misunderstanding it may be well to state more precisely what the Secretary of State's instructions were. Lord KINGSFORD directed, then, that the increase should be

at the rate of 35 per cent. on the 1875 salaries in the case of offices usually filled by candidates from England and 20 per cent. in the case of other offices. His Lordship went on to observe, however, that where the office had been created or reconstituted, or its salary raised once or oftener since 1875, the rate should be fixed according to the merits of each case, regard being had to the date of creation or reconstitution or of increase of emolument, and to the amount and character of the duties; but the full amount of the increase above mentioned was to take effect only where the salaries stood as in 1875. A number of offices received the full increase of 35 or 20 per cent., as the case might be, but in the majority of cases the increase had been already in part anticipated and the percentage of increase on the previous year's salaries was in those cases proportionately reduced. The full details are set out in returns published in the *Gazette* of the 2nd May, 1891. In some cases in which the increase raised the salary of an office to what afterwards came to be considered too high a figure advantage was taken when the office fell vacant and a new appointment had to be made to again reduce it to a reasonable figure. On the whole, however, we think it must be recognised that with the increase of 1891 and the exchange compensation granted subsequently the members of the Civil Service have been more favourably treated in the matter of exchange and the increased cost of living than any other class of the community, with the exception of the small but fortunate class who draw their salaries in sterling.

THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

The exhortation of the Tsung-li Yamen and the Viceroy of the Liangkiang Provinces to Chinese tea planters is not calculated to produce any striking results. The exhortation has been issued at the instance of the Minister for the Netherlands, who says that no tea is superior to the Chinese tea in flavour and delicacy of taste and urges that the ancient methods of preparation should be continued instead of being changed for the more modern methods. The Minister would appear to speak in the interests of a limited class of connoisseurs, by whom the delicate flavour and aroma of superior Chinese tea is held in high appreciation, but the amount of leaf required to supply the demand in that quarter can never be large. The great bulk of the consumers prefer the Indian and Ceylon tea and if China wishes to regain her place as the leading exporter she will have to adopt the methods of her competitors. Even in Hongkong, where one would expect China tea to hold its own if anywhere, we find Indian and Ceylon tea largely imported to supply the requirements of the European community, which is a plain indication of the direction in which popular taste tends. It may pay Chinese growers to produce a limited amount of high class fancy teas for the supply of special markets, but the trade in those descriptions can never attain any great magnitude. It is the taste of the average consumer that must be consulted if the China tea trade is ever to regain its former proportions.

The Viceroy Liu ascribes the loss of so large a proportion of the tea trade to the carelessness and dishonest practices of the Chinese planters, which have allowed foreign teas to capture the markets. There is no doubt a good deal in that, but it is far from being the whole truth. Indian and Ceylon teas are preferred to China tea even when the latter is of unimpeachable quality.

Nor must the deterioration of quality be ascribed entirely to the inherent dishonesty of the planter. The unfortunate man, finding his product labouring under a weight of taxation that prevented it competing on even terms with foreign tea, has been more or less driven to pinch the quality in order to retain a margin of profit. It is all very well for the Viceroy to exhort his people to "seek reform in the trade and mutually aid each other in producing carefully prepared high quality teas, and thereby create anew a wide demand for the article, which will be followed by general prosperity to all," but if any success is to be achieved in that direction the Government must in the first place lighten the burden of taxation and so give the industry a fair chance.

Given lighter taxation, however, and the improvement in quality and the greater cheapness which might be expected to follow, a reform in the methods of cultivation and manufacture would still be necessary if China is to compete on equal terms for the supply of the general demand, for the small demand that exists for fancy teas will not be sufficient to keep up the volume of the trade. The Tsungli Yamen does not expressly condemn new methods, but urges that "whether their teas are prepared by the old methods or by the new" the inhabitants of the tea planting districts "should always keep in mind the importance of being careful in the work and aim at producing high quality teas in order to command the market." The Viceroy Liu also says he has on former occasions repeatedly exhorted the tea planters in his jurisdiction to introduce reforms into their methods of preparation, etc. What is intended by the Viceroy and the Yamen, however, is, apparently, that reform should proceed on the old lines rather than that an entire revolution in the trade should be effected; for the quotation of the Netherlands Minister's despatch and the general tone of the exhortation seem intended to throw cold water on the attempt now being made at Foochow to introduce foreign methods. Yet it would seem that in the success of the Tea Improvement Company's experiment, coupled with reduced taxation, lies the sole hope of a resuscitation of the China tea trade. If the Company has not at once succeeded in producing a class of tea to command the approval of the open market we hope it will not thereby be discouraged, but will persevere until success is achieved.

STRINGENCY IN THE MONEY MARKET.

The extreme stringency of the money market in the Far East at a time when nothing has occurred to shake public credit has given rise to a good deal of speculation as to its cause. When the Japanese yen were withdrawn from circulation owing to the change of standard in Japan it was natural that some scarcity of the circulating medium should be experienced, but confidence was felt that it would be of short duration, as it was thought silver would speedily pour in to fill the void caused by the withdrawal of the yen. As a matter of fact a large consignment of silver was sent to the Bombay Mint to be coined into dollars for China, which, had it arrived, would have afforded considerable relief, but it was found that the dollars could be disposed of at Bombay at a very substantial profit, possibly for East Africa, but whatever the ultimate destination of the money it never came on to the Far East. A subsequent smaller consignment was intercepted

at Singapore, where the course of exchange gave the Banks an opportunity of profitably disposing of it. In the meantime the stock of spot silver, already reduced by the withdrawal of the Japanese yen, has been further reduced by an unusual absorption on the part of China, which has to a large extent been taking silver instead of imported goods in exchange for her exports. In the South large quantities of silver have been sent up-country to pay for tea and silk and have not come back, and from an article reproduced in another column from the *China Gazette* we learn that quite extraordinary shipments of silver have been made from Shanghai to Newchwang and the other Northern ports, and it is probable, we should think, that the riverine ports have been drawing heavily on Shanghai in the same way. But with silver at its present price, and more especially before the recent slight recovery, it might have been expected in ordinary course that wherever there was a demand it would be very speedily supplied. The recent rise in the price of the metal may have led many persons to believe that the supply was running short, that the quotation had touched bottom, and that a gradual recovery might be hoped for. We would be glad if we could think so, but, alas, we have been too often deceived with similar appearances before. A more probable explanation is suggested in the following paragraph from the *Financial Times* of the 29th October:—"The price of bar silver has again risen, and the spot market is decidedly firm. The bulls, in fact, have shown that they have more strength than was generally supposed, and, having control of the supplies, are squeezing the bears. The present position of the market, nevertheless, is entirely artificial, and should the holders of silver attempt to realise in order to secure their profits, the price is likely to break at once, and come down very quickly. As it is, the rate for December delivery is three half-pence lower than that for cash." The bulls cannot hold on indefinitely, and when they begin to give way we may expect a heavy decline in exchange, which will be compensated for, however, to some extent at least, by relief of the stringency of the local money market. It seems to be generally considered, however, that the present uncomfortable condition is likely to prevail until after China New Year.

THE EFFECT OF THE GOLD STANDARD ON THE SINGAPORE AND BANGKOK TRADE.

In discussing the proposal to adopt the gold standard in the Straits the *Siam Free Press* indulges in some extraordinary reflections regarding the probable result on trade relations between Siam and the Straits. The effect, our contemporary opines, would be obviously to the disadvantage of Singapore. "For," the article proceeds, "our Straits friends, who take such a large proportion of Siamese produce, would be paying in gold, or in produce representative of gold, for Bangkok shipments. The effect of this arrangement on Singapore would be to send up the cost of living for the poorer population throughout the Straits, which would react disadvantageously on every business. The question of debased coin, an example afforded by Java, may be passed over here as sufficiently evident. The second tendency of Singapore's adoption of a gold currency would be to limit relations with Siam and turn the rice trade towards Hongkong, which, must of necessity, from its position, cling to the

"metal of the mainland. And what applies to Siam in this sense also applies to Cochin-China and China. The change would operate most unfavourably to the Straits even if that colony could bear the strain of the heavy charge for the change." The effect predicted on the rice trade between Bangkok and Singapore is contrary alike to common sense and to experience. Whether a gold standard is prejudicial to a country's export trade is a question on which financial authorities are divided in opinion, but we have never before seen it suggested that imports from silver countries were prejudicially affected by the fact of gold being the standard of the importing country. Apparently our Bangkok contemporary imagines that the importer of rice in the Straits would have to pay as many dollars in gold as he would have had to pay in silver had the white metal continued the standard, whereas what he would do would be to buy say a hundred and five or a hundred and ten silver dollars with his hundred gold dollars and pay for the rice in silver, supposing silver to continue the standard in Siam. As to the cost of living, another matter to which our contemporary refers, experience shows that whereas the cost of living has increased in silver countries it has declined in gold countries. There is no reason to suppose the same experience would not be repeated in the Straits. Our Singapore friends need not be at all alarmed as to the effect of the gold standard on their trade with Siam. It would stimulate rather than discourage the import trade. The Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce that recently considered the question were also of opinion that the change would not be unfavourable to the export trade, but even if the contrary were the case it would not materially affect the trade with Siam, for there is but little Straits produce shipped to Bangkok. Nor would the trade in European goods shipped from Singapore to Siam be affected, for prices in that trade have in any case to be settled according to the exchange of the day and Singapore's being on a gold basis would make no difference.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES.

The fact that the Viceroy at Canton has been instructed from Peking, in consequence of Germany's seizure of Kiaochau Bay, to hold a council of the high officers of the province to devise means for strengthening the forts and to prepare for all emergencies, would seem to indicate that China is not prepared at once to acquiesce in the seizure and anticipates that her opposition may lead to reprisals. Presumably similar instructions to those received at Canton have been issued to all the maritime provinces. The chances, however, we should say, are against any actual fighting taking place. Germany, we take it, will not wish to send out a large military expedition to China, but will be content with Kiaochau Bay. China on her part will hesitate to make any attempt to turn the intruders out, her present fleet being wholly inadequate to effect any such operation. If, however, she should be ill-advised enough to try it, the results would be disastrous to herself. Germany, while not anxious to go to war, has assuredly not taken the step she has at Kiaochau without having carefully counted the cost and being ready for all eventualities, and if necessary she will no doubt be prepared to send out a force of sufficient strength to march on Peking and take satisfaction there. China's best policy will be to accept accom-

plished facts and proceed to set her house in order so as to avoid similar severe lessons in the future. Anti-foreign outrages must cease, or other Powers will follow Germany's example and exact prompt reparation in the form of territorial concessions for the murder of their subjects.

MIRS BAY AND THE EXTENSION OF HONGKONG'S BOUNDARIES.

In Li HUNG-CHANG's memorial on naval and military reform in China, a translation of which has been published by a German paper, it is suggested that for the accommodation of China's future navy three fortified ports should be established. The places suggested for this purpose are Kiaochau Bay in the north, Namkwan in the centre, and Mirs Bay in the south. Kiaochau Bay has now been occupied by Germany and is therefore out of the question, and as to Mirs Bay, England should have something to say to that. The rectification of this colony's frontier, which is daily becoming more fully recognised as essential, should include Mirs Bay on the one side and Deep Bay on the other. The suggestion that China should establish a great naval station in the first-named Bay brings the matter more closely home to us and exemplifies the danger of the present position. It is not a Chinese naval station itself that is to be feared so much as what it might lead to. With the Chinese established in force so close to our borders petty annoyances arising from disputed jurisdiction and accidental conflicts might be anticipated, but the real danger is that on the first difference of opinion between China and one of the great Powers Mirs Bay, whether fortified or not, might be seized in the same way that Kiaochau Bay has been by Germany, and we might have as our immediate neighbour a Power that might possibly prove actively unfriendly and would almost certainly prove a rival both politically and commercially. No effort ought to be spared to avert such a contingency. It is a thousand pities the opportunity was lost when England had a good claim for reparation in respect of the Kucheng massacre and other outrages perpetrated on British subjects. At that time the desired territory might have been taken as a right, for England would have been justified in imposing her own terms. It may perhaps be necessary now to proceed by way of purchase or lease, but however the result may be arrived at it is important that Mirs Bay and the adjacent territory should be brought under British control. While it remains in Chinese hands it constitutes a potential danger to the safety of Hongkong in consequence of its liability to seizure by a foreign Power.

IMPROVEMENTS WANTED ON THE PRAYA RECLAMATION.

The suggestion made by our correspondent "Improvement" that the Government land on the Reclamation fronting the City Hall should as soon as possible be cleared of the workshops now standing upon it and be turfed over will be cordially endorsed by a large section of the community. The land in question is at present in a very unsightly condition. It is being utilised for the making of concrete blocks for the sea wall and apparently also as a general lumber yard. We should think it might be possible to find another site for the manufacture of the concrete blocks, but if the reasons in favour of retaining the present site for that purpose are too strong to be set aside something might at least be done to bring the ground into a more orderly condition

and render it less of an eyesore. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank deserves the thanks of the public for the manner in which the Bank's lots on the Reclamation have been dealt with, and we would be glad to see the Government follow its example as soon as possible. The ground in question is intended as the site for the new Public Offices, but we fear it will be some years before building commences. If the land cannot at once be utilised for the purpose for which it is intended the best thing that could be done with it would be to turf it over and lay it out as ornamental grounds. It would be intolerable that it should continue to be used indefinitely as a storeyard for the Public Works Department.

SUPREME COURT.

25th November.

IN BANKRUPTCY

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

RE A. M. A. SHIRAZEE, EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

Aga Mahomed Alley Shirazee, the debtor, came up for his public examination.

Mr. Thomson (of Messrs Deacon and Hastings' office) represented the principal creditors, Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co., who are the agents for the Imperial Bank of Persia. Mr. de Castro D'Almada watched the case on behalf of the debtor, and Mr. Bruce Shepherd (Official Receiver) conducted the examination.

The debtor, who spoke Hindustani, said he had resided in Hongkong nineteen years. He started business on his own account as an opium dealer and general commission agent eight years ago with a capital of \$8,000, his own money. Up to three years ago his profits were from \$2,500 to \$3,000 a year, but during the last three years he had lost money in his dealings in opium and cotton. His principal creditors were the Imperial Bank of Persia, who were the holders of two drafts which he could not meet. He signed the drafts so that a certain quantity of opium might be sent to him, but the opium never came. The drafts were for \$7,000 altogether, one being for \$3,000 and the other for \$4,000.

The Official Receiver said that a man named Carreem, of Isphahan, Persia, had received the money, and endeavours to find him had proved futile.

The debtor, continuing, said the Bank, being unable to recover the money from Carreem, sued witness, and he lost the day. He was unable to pay the money and so he had to enter the bankruptcy court. Witness then entered into a detailed statement of his business transactions and said that his brother in Persia owed him over \$13,000, which he had no doubt would be paid.

The examination was concluded.

26th November.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

TSANG YEE MUI V. TAM CHAK U, ALIAS TAM CHUN.

The plaintiff, who is a widow residing in Yuen Shing Lane, Hongkong, sought to set aside an agreement charging certain property as security to the defendant, who was described as a money lender residing at 36, Hollywood Road.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master), appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson) for the defendant.

Before the case was opened His Lordship asked if counsel had considered whether the matter in controversy in this suit was really a question of law.

Mr. Francis said the question was purely one of law; it was simply a question of the interpretation of the agreement.

Mr. Slade agreed with that remark and said that generally the facts were admitted. Two facts only were disputed. One was whether the defendant was a money lender as he was described in the petition, and the other whether the plaintiff was the mother of one of two men mentioned in the agreement.

Mr. Francis said his friend could describe the defendant just as he thought best.

His Lordship asked if it was intended to argue the question of law at once.

Mr. Francis replied that it would be more convenient to briefly state the facts first. He then said the action arose out of a matter which had been before his Lordship in various forms before. Two persons entered into partnership as the Kwong Hop Wo firm apparently for the purpose of taking up a building contract with the Land Investment Company. They entered into a contract with the Company to pull down certain old buildings and erect new buildings for the sum of \$17,500. Before consenting to enter into the contract the Company required that somebody should give security for its fulfilment. The Kwong Hop Wo Firm applied to the defendant to become security or to obtain a friend to become security. Defendant agreed to give or obtain security on the stipulation that he received a certain remuneration and that he was also given security for the payment of the remuneration. The plaintiff, who is the mother of one of the men constituting the Kwong Wo firm, agreed to give that security. An agreement was drawn up between the Kwong Hop Wo Firm of the first part, the defendant of the second part, and the plaintiff of the third part, and the sole question before the Court was as to the interpretation to be put upon that document under the circumstances that had happened since the making of it. The Land Investment Company accepted the security and the Kwong Hop Wo firm obtained the contract. Under the contract two payments of \$2,000 each were made to the defendant, but before the buildings were completed the Kwong Hop Wo firm became insolvent and incapable of carrying out the contract with the Company. A new contract was consequently made for the completion of the buildings. It was pretty evident that what the defendant desired to obtain was 5 per cent. of \$17,500, the amount for which the contract had been settled. He also stipulated for one-sixth of any extra payments the firm might get if the buildings were completed before the prescribed time. Further, he stipulated that if the firm continued in business after the completion of the contract they should pay him \$15 a month. The plaintiff's contention was that the firm never completed the buildings as the partnership was dissolved, and therefore the stipulation as to the \$15 to be paid after the period of completion fell to the ground. The point in dispute was whether in the agreement that was drawn up between the parties the defendant sufficiently stipulated for 5 per cent. of the total amount of the contract to enable him to get the full payment of the 5 per cent. or only 5 per cent. on certified instalments of money paid. The plaintiff's case was that in the agreement there was no expressed or implied undertaking either by the Kwong Hop Wo firm or the plaintiff that the Kwong Hop Wo should complete the contract and should earn the whole of the money. Counsel then read and criticized the agreement, which, he said, had been before the Court so many times that it had become a fixture.

Mr. Slade, on behalf of the defendant, said that by the agreement the plaintiff was bound to pay 5 per cent. on the total amount mentioned in the contract even though the Kwong Hop Wo firm failed to carry out their part of the contract.

His Lordship reserved judgment.

29th November.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA V. BENNERTZ AND ANOTHER.

In this case the defendants moved "that the plaintiff having withdrawn this suit in regard

to the whole of his claim judgment be entered for the defendants' costs of and incidental to the plaintiff's claim to be taxed, and for judgment that the wages of the crew retained on board the s.s. *Ningchow* by the defendants in pursuance of the order of the Honourable Court, dated 9th December, 1896, and the expenses of the said ship to the date of judgment be paid by the plaintiff to the defendants when ascertained, and that the matter be referred to the Registrar of the Court to ascertain the amount of the said wages and expenses, and for judgment that the plaintiff pay the defendants the sum of \$1,000 for compensation for the expense and injury occasioned by the issue of the warrant of arrest in this suit.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny, Crown Solicitor), appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings's office), for Henry Claude Bennertz and Iqatz Pollak, the defendants.

Mr. Francis said he had a preliminary objection to make to the form of the notice of motion. He submitted that in so far as the motion asked for judgment for defendants' costs the form was irregular and not justified by any provision of the Code or anything in the practice under common law procedure. Counsel contended there were two methods by which the defendants could obtain any decision in this suit in consequence of the plaintiff having withdrawn the suit. One method was by motion to dismiss under Section 49 of the Code. The section ran as follows:—

"Dismissal for want of prosecution. Where the plaintiff does not obtain an order for setting down the cause within one month from the time at which he might first apply for such an order, the defendant may apply by motion for an order to dismiss the petition for want of prosecution. On such application the Court may, if it thinks fit, make an order dismissing the petition, or make such other order, or impose such terms as the Court thinks reasonable." The only other method with which counsel was acquainted by which judgment could be obtained was by setting down the cause for trial under section 61, which said:— "When a cause in the hearing paper has been called on, if neither party attend in person or by counsel, the Court, on being satisfied that plaintiff has received notice of the hearing, shall, unless it sees good reason to the contrary, strike the cause out of the hearing paper. If the plaintiff does not attend in person or by counsel the Court, on being satisfied that the plaintiff has received notice of the hearing, shall, unless it sees good reason to the contrary, strike out the cause and make such order as to costs in favour of any defendant appearing as seems just." If the latter course had been adopted the judgment would have been one striking out the cause with such costs as the Court thought fit to award. The judgment under the other section would have been a judgment dismissing the suit and not judgment for the defendants. An application for leave to enter judgment for defendants with costs of suit was not warranted by anything in the Code.

Mr. Robinson, in reply, said his learned friend had entirely overlooked the difference between the Hongkong rules and the rules either under the Judicature Act or the Common Law Procedure Act when he advanced his objections under the Common Law Procedure Act. The fact was that plaintiff had withdrawn his case. There was no case of the plaintiff before the Court. Counsel declined to treat the case under section 49 or section 61, because if he had done so he would have been treating the case as a case before the Court, which it was not. Section 66 of the Code provided that the plaintiff may withdraw his suit with the limitation that if he withdraws without leave he shall be precluded from bringing a fresh suit in the matter. Subject to that a plaintiff could withdraw his suit at any time. And so it was under the Judicature Act. The defendants therefore had to look for some other form of judgment than the forms referred to by the learned counsel for the plaintiff. He (Mr. Robinson) had therefore framed the motion on the first Lead as to judgment with costs upon discontinuance of action set out in the appendix of the Judicature Act. *A fortiori* sections 49 and 61 did not apply, as there was no case before the Court.

Mr. Francis, in reply to Mr. Robinson, said that if Sections 49 and 61 did not apply and there was no case before the Court his Lordship was entirely without jurisdiction, unless it was expressly given, to award defendants costs or give any relief.

His Lordship—It might be a hard case, then.

Mr. Francis said it might be, but if the case was, as his friend said, withdrawn and not before the Court, the Court had no power to make any order in relation to the suit. His friend's allusions to the Judicature Act had been extremely "slap dash," as he had not noticed that it had nothing to do with the present case. Not a single word of the Judicature Act was in force in Hongkong. The Court could be moved in these proceedings either by the Code or the Common Law Procedure Act and its rules. Section 49 was applicable. It was a case of dismissal for want of prosecution. What was that but a withdrawal? It was a withdrawal and nothing more.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Friday, the 19th November. Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (chairman), Herbert Smith (vice-chairman), N. J. Ede, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelsen, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held 8th October) were read and confirmed.

THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

A letter had been despatched (on 19th Oct.) to the Colonial Secretary acknowledging receipt of his letter of the 5th idem enclosing copy of Attorney-General's minute, and suggesting that where publication in advertisements of illustrations would entail heavy cost, a lucid description of the trade mark should at least be given in lieu thereof.

THE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND BULGARIA.

In reply to the letter of the Government transmitting copy of above agreement and requesting an expression of Chamber's opinion thereon, a letter was despatched, on the 19th October, to the effect that the Committee saw no reason to take exception to the provisions of the Convention. Letter had with other correspondence since been published in *Government Gazette*.

THE PINNACLE ROCK FUND.

In view of the recent wreck of the steamer *Namuo* on a rock said to be uncharted, a letter was, on the 22nd Oct., addressed to Commodore Holland drawing attention to the existence of the above fund, and suggesting that H.M.'s vessels when engaged in surveying on the China coast might be empowered to offer rewards therefrom for information regarding unknown or hidden dangers.

Read reply, dated 25th Oct., stating that copies of Chamber's letter had been forwarded to Admiral and to hydrographer of Navy, and that instructions would be given to officers of *Phoenix*, shortly to be employed in surveying the harbour of Swatow, that application may be made, through the Commodore, to the Chamber for any awards to fishermen or others for imparting information concerning unknown dangers.

Decided to acknowledge receipt of letter and to intimate that the view of the committee with regard to the amount of reward was a maximum of \$50 for an important danger. It was also decided to ask the British Consuls and the Commissioner of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs to assist in making known among the Chinese maritime population that rewards are offered for information of unknown dangers on the coast.

DANGERS TO NAVIGATION OFF SOCOTRA.

Read letters from the Board of Trade in reply to Chamber's letter of the 17th August, stating that the matter is receiving attention; from Birmingham Chamber in acknowledgment of Chamber's circular letter of 20th August; and from London Chamber, also acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter of same date and

enclosing copies of correspondence on same subject with Foreign Office, &c.

THE QUESTION OF DATING BILLS OF LADING.

This question again came up for discussion, and it was decided to print the correspondence for circulation among the members, and reply to that effect to the President of the General Produce Brokers' Association of London.

FOOD SUPPLY FOR COOLIES IN CEYLON.

Read letter from Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, dated 3rd November, inquiring whether large supplies of rice and curry stuff for use of coolies could on emergency be shipped hence to Colombo and at what rates.

Decided to reply giving such information as was at command of the Chamber, but to express inability to send samples, &c.

TYPHOON SIGNALS.

The Vice-Chairman drew attention to the fact that typhoon signals had been hoisted during the recent blow. He thought that perhaps some modification of these usual signals might be made when it was only an ordinary north-east gale, as the signals used alarmed the boat people and caused them all to clear out.

(Correspondence.)

REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 5th October, 1897.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, regarding the infringement of certain trade marks, I am directed to transmit for the information and consideration of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a minute by the Attorney-General on the subject. I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

(signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,

Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

MINUTE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(1) It appears that Messrs. Marsland have not only successfully opposed Messrs. Meyerinks' endeavour to register in Hongkong the "horse shoe" trade mark similar to that registered, years ago, in England by Messrs. Marsland, but have also themselves now obtained registration in Hongkong of their mark. Had Messrs. Marsland registered locally sooner, it would have saved some trouble and difficulty. It is impossible for us here to know whether any particular mark is registered in England unless information is given on the subject.

(2) While our local Patent Ordinance (2 of '92) requires the applicant to have obtained letters patent in England before he can obtain them here, the Trade Mark Ordinances contain no similar requirement.

Indeed, in many cases, local trade marks are registered here which are not registered anywhere else.

(3) Messrs. Marsland's letter of 13th August, 1896, suggests that it would facilitate the sale of British manufactures if some system of registration (of trade marks) could be adopted which would cover Great Britain and her colonies. That opens out a question of some difficulty and the Chamber of Commerce, in its reply of 21st September, 1897, deals with it thus: The Secretary writes:—

"My Committee are not prepared to suggest any scheme of imperial registration embracing the colonies as well as the United Kingdom, on account of the magnitude of the undertaking and the great attendant cost of having commensurate departments in each colony; while at the same time, it is most desirable that owners of marks for local trade should be able to claim the protection of "registration."

(4) Those remarks appear to me very appropriate. Moreover, section 104 of the Patents Designs and Trade Marks Act, 1883, 4 & 47 Vict. c. 57, shows that the matter is not so simple as Messrs Marsland seem to suppose.

(5) As regards the other suggestions in the letter from the Chamber of Commerce, these are that it should be "formally laid down":—

(a) That, while registration in Hongkong may be accepted as *prima facie* evidence of ownership of a trade mark, registration at a prior date in the United Kingdom would constitute the real ownership of the trade mark in this colony (for the classes under which it is registered) as much as in the United Kingdom.

(b) When application for registration has been made in Hongkong, before the date of registration in the United Kingdom, the local registration should confer prior right in this colony.

(c) That illustrations and descriptions of trade marks should be published with the notices required to be published in the *Government Gazette*.

The letter suggests that the proposition marked in my minute as (a) should be submitted to the Attorney-General for corroboration or otherwise.

It would, I apprehend, require a decision of the Supreme Court before the proposition could be "formally laid down" as correct. I may, however, point out that in Sebastian's work on Trade Marks, 2nd Ed., 1884, p. 15, the following passage occurs:—

"Since trade marks are recognised throughout the world, and not merely in the manufacturer's own country, as indicative of his goods, so that the subjects of any country are liable to be defrauded by goods bearing an imitation of a foreign trade mark, and any manufacturer is liable to suffer by the forgery of his marks abroad, the right of property in a trade mark is not limited by territorial bounds."

I take it, the Trade Marks Ordinance (16 of 1873) was passed, primarily, to enable a person possessed of a trade mark, who wished to take proceedings in Hongkong to protect his rights, to be able to procure the necessary evidence of his rights by the simple method of local registration. No doubt the Ordinance allowed also local registration of local trade marks not registered elsewhere.

But in order to obtain registration here, the applicant must (by Ordinance 20 of 1895) swear that he is, to the best of his belief, entitled, solely, or jointly with some other person named in the affidavit, to the exclusive use of such Trade Mark. It is difficult to see, how such an affidavit can be made by "A" when "B" is the registered owner in England, unless "A" is unaware of the fact; and, if the affidavit should be made inadvertently, it would, as it seems to me, constitute a good ground for "cancellation" after registration (under section 8 of the Ordinance); that in point of fact, "B" was duly registered in England prior to the application here, and that, therefore, "A" was not entitled to the exclusive use of such trade mark, and his affidavit was made in error, or was false.

Registration here is therefore only *prima facie* evidence of the right to the trade mark, and therefore evidence of a prior subsisting registration in England would appear to me to be admissible to defeat the *prima facie* proof of the local register.

As regards the proposition (b), though not specifically submitted to me, I may say it appears to me sound.

As regards (c) the question of requiring illustrations of the trade marks of which registration is asked to be published in the *Gazette* with the notices, this was considered in 1895 when Ordinance 20 of 1895 was passed. It was thought the cost would be considerable, often requiring dies to be sent from England and delay in printing; and considering that Victoria in a small city and practically represents Hongkong, notice that the trade marks could be seen at the Colonial Secretary's office would afford sufficient facility to those interested to inspect the marks applicants were desirous of registering. Some of the Chinese trade marks, too, would be difficult to describe clearly.

(Sd.) W. M. GOODMAN.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 19th October, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. in continuation of correspondence on the registration of trade marks, and forwarding copy of a minute by the Attorney-General on the subject.

My committee have carefully perused the Attorney-General's minute, and are glad to find that he is in substantial agreement with the Chamber except with regard to the publication of illustrations of the trade marks registered, which he is of opinion would in some cases entail rather heavy cost. My committee would, however, suggest that, in such cases, a clear description of the trade mark itself should be given

in the notices in lieu of an engraving.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

THE QUESTION OF THE DATING OF BILLS OF LADING.

The General Produce Brokers' Association of London,
London, 13th August, 1897.

Sir,—I beg to enclose you copy of letter which this Association has addressed to the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom. The importance of the maintenance of the integrity of a bill of lading is so absolutely necessary now that produce of all descriptions is largely sold for arrival, that I trust you will be good enough to bring the matter prominently before your members. The Chamber of Shipping has promised to give all the assistance in their power to carry out the suggestions we have made.

At your convenience I shall be glad to know what the views of your Chamber are on the subject.—I am, yours faithfully,

H. W. PRICE,

President.

To the President of the Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

24, Mark Lane, London, E.C.
21st July, 1897.

Dear Sir,—With reference to our letter to you of the 9th instant, on the subject of bills of lading, I beg to inform you that we have seen the chairman and other members of the Documentary Committee and have explained to them the present unsatisfactory position buyers and sellers of produce are placed in by the signing and dating of bills of lading by ship owners, agents, and captains before the goods specified in the bills of lading are actually on board the vessels. We find no one able to defend the practice on any grounds; but it is still done, and possibly, if not dealt with now, may prove disastrous to our arrival trade and entirely alter the value of a bill of lading as a negotiable document. We therefore ask you to request ship owners, agents, and captains in no case to date or sign a bill of lading until the goods are on board; and I may add that this Association does not recognise any such document as valid which may be found to have been dated or signed incorrectly.

A large proportion of the produce trade is done by us for arrival, and contracted for to be shipped by a specified date; you will therefore well understand how important this matter is, and we hope your Chamber will intimate to all ship owners that they must take steps to preserve the integrity of a bill of lading at any cost.

We have been informed that great pressure is sometimes put upon ships' agents and captains to pre-date their bills of lading for the purposes of finance, and, although this point does not affect us directly, we suggest that some other document, such as a receipt, or warehouse keeper's warrant, might be made available for such purposes.

I desire also to allude to the practice of signing three, four, or more, bills of lading, which leads to trouble in dealing with shipping documents for produce sold, and which appears to us to be unnecessary. If instructions could be given to ships' agents and captains to sign only two, we think that it would be sufficient, and opportunities for fraud would be minimised.

We desire also to draw attention to the importance of specifying on masters' receipts or bills of lading any damage or defective condition that may be apparent in goods received on board, not in general terms but by stating number and, if possible, marks of packages so damaged. A very large business is carried out in these days on f.o.b. and cost and freight terms, the damage on goods being for the account of the buyers after shipment, but for seller's account if it occurs before shipment.

We trust that you will approach all ship owners on behalf of those whom we represent, and if you require printed copies of this com-

munication we shall be happy to furnish the same.—I am, yours faithfully,

H. W. PRICE, President.
General Produce Brokers' Association of London.

To W. H. Cooke, Esq., Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, 5, Whittington Avenue.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th October, 1897.

H. W. Price, Esq., President, The General Produce Brokers' Association of London.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th August enclosing copy of a letter addressed by your Association to the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom on the question of the maintenance of the integrity of a Bill of Lading.

In reply I am instructed by my Committee to say that, as the question is not so simple as would appear at first sight, before taking any action in the matter, they are desirous of discussing it at their next meeting.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th November, 1897.

The President, General Produce Brokers' Association of London.

Sir,—In continuation of correspondence on the subject of maintaining the integrity of bills of lading, I am instructed to say that my Committee, after further consideration of the matter, feel unable to take any active steps to secure any alteration of the system as carried on here. They have, however, had copies of the correspondence printed and circulated among the members of the Chamber, and will also forward same for publication in the local Press.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

THE LIGHTING OF THE RED SEA.

Board of Trade (Harbour Department),
7, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W.,
20th September, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo on the subject of the dangers to navigation in the vicinity of the Island of Socotra, with special reference to the recent loss of the steamer *Aden* on that coast; and, in reply, I am to state, for the information of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, that the matter is at present engaging the attention of the Board of Trade.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. W. PELHAM.

The Chairman, General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

The London Chamber of Commerce
Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E.C.
29th September, 1897.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your favour of the 29th August last, which I will lay before the East India and China Trade Section of this Chamber at its next meeting.

The subject referred to in your letter to the President of the Board of Trade—Perils of navigation in the vicinity of Socotra—was (under the title of the better lighting of the southern portion of the Red Sea) dealt with by the Section at its last meeting, and I send you herewith for your information copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber on behalf of the Section to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs together with a copy of his reply thereto.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

The Secretary, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

London Chamber of Commerce,
Botolph House, Eastcheap,
London, E.C.

27th July, 1897.

My Lord,—I am directed to inform you that the East India and China Trade Section of this Chamber at its last meeting had under consideration the question of the inadequate supply of lights in the Southern portion of the Red Sea.

I enclose herewith for your Lordship's consideration copy of a letter received by this Chamber from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, together with copy of a letter addressed by that Chamber to the Secretary of the Government of Bengal on this subject.

I am directed by the East India and China Trade Section to say that they endorse the views set forth in the communication of the Calcutta Chamber, and express the hope that this important matter will receive the careful and sympathetic attention of H.M.'s Government and that their influence will be exerted to obtain the desired object and thus provide for the safety of the very large amount of British shipping which passes continually through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.

I understand that the Board of Trade have recently taken some action in connection with this matter and that the same is now receiving their most careful consideration with a view to a satisfactory solution of the difficulty being arrived at.—I am, my Lord, yours faithfully,

KENRIC B. MURRAY, Secretary.
The Most Noble the Marquess of Salisbury,
K.C.C., Foreign Office.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce,
Royal Exchange Buildings,
Calcutta, 19th May, 1897.

To the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Marine Department.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee to address you with reference to the urgent necessity which has long existed for additional light-houses in the lower portion of the Red Sea. The subject is by no means a new one, as the want has been long acknowledged and forcible attention has been drawn to it from time to time whenever a casualty has occurred. The committee understand that a short time ago the British Ambassador at Constantinople issued a circular to the representatives of the Great Powers inviting their co-operation in a joint representation to Turkey pressing for authority to construct lights in the region referred to. The committee are without information as to whether any results of a practical nature have followed from this circular, but they venture respectfully to submit that it is almost impossible to overrate the necessity for some speedy action being taken in the interests of the yearly increasing amounts of shipping which finds its way through the Red Sea to India, China, and Australia. The course pursued by vessels either downwards or upwards through the Red Sea is without doubt one of the most dangerous in the world, and for nearly nine hundred miles there are no lights whatever for the guidance of mariners. The Committee feel that it is not necessary to enter into any detail as to the manifold dangers of the passage as these must be accurately known to the marine authorities.

2.—The matter is assuming additional importance at the present time owing to the approaching renewal of the P. & O. mail contract, which provides for a considerable increase in speed and consequently tends to increase the risk which is already run by the steamers owing to the absence of lights. The upper portion of the Red Sea where the course pursued by vessels runs close to the Egyptian shore is already fairly well provided with lights, and the Committee are unable to realise that any substantial difficulties can possibly lie in the way of treating the southern portion of the Red Sea with its 200 miles of shoals and islands in a similar manner.

In any case the matter is one which appears to call for prompt and decided action on the part of the British Government, as the great majority of vessels passing through these waters carry the British Flag. The Committee therefore direct me to request that the Government of Bengal, after giving the matter due consideration, will move the Government of India to ask the Secretary of State to take such steps as may be considered desirable with a view to establishing a complete system of light houses in the southern portion of the Red Sea.—I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. PARSONS, Secretary.

Foreign Office,
4th August, 1897.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo with regard to the inadequate supply of

lights in the southern part of the Red Sea I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state to you for the information of the London Chamber of Commerce that the matter has been receiving the careful attention of Her Majesty's Government.

Funds have already been accumulated by the Egyptian Government for the construction of new lights in the Red Sea. It has not as yet been found possible to come to any arrangement for the erection of these lights, which would be situated on Ottoman territory on the eastern side of the Red Sea, and the question of employing lightships is being considered, one of which would be stationed on the Mocha Shoal.—I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

GEORGE CURZON.

THE PINNACLE ROCK FUND.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 22nd Oct., 1897.

Sir,—In view of the recent wreck of the British steamer *Namoa* in the Haitan Straits on an uncharted rock, and the fact that there is reason to believe that many unknown pinnacle rocks exist on the coast of China, I am instructed by my Committee to bring to the notice of Commodore Holland the fact that this Chamber has at its disposal a fund subscribed in 1888, and now amounting to over \$3,000, established for the purpose of giving rewards to fishermen and others who report to the authorities the existence of any of these hidden dangers hitherto unknown. It was believed, at the time the Pinnacle Rock Fund was started, that, if sufficient inducement were offered, much valuable information might be obtained from the native fishermen on the coast who may be supposed to be well acquainted with the position of these obstacles to safe navigation. So far, however, little call has been made on the fund, possibly owing to the existence of such rewards not having been made sufficiently known among the Chinese seafaring population, and to the fact that no vessel of H.M.'s Navy has been on regular surveying duty on this coast for some years.

My committee therefore desire to suggest to Commodore Holland that Her Majesty's surveying vessels, when engaged in surveying on the coast, might be empowered to offer suitable rewards from this fund for information of the kind above referred to, and thus carry out the intention with which it was founded.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Secretary.

V.A. Lawford, Esq., R.N.,

Secretary to

Commodore Swinton Holland, R.N.

Tamar at Hongkong,
25th October, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 22nd instant on the subject of rewards to fishermen, &c., reporting the existence of uncharted rocks and dangers on the China coast and to inform you that the Commodore has forwarded the same for the information of Sir Alexander Buller, K.C.B., Commander-in-chief.

2.—H.M.S. *Phoenix* has been directed to make a survey of the harbour of Swatow on her return from Tamsui where she is now stationed for a short time, and instructions will be given to the officers conducting the survey that application may be made, through the Commodore, when necessary, to the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce for any awards which it may be considered that fishermen or others have deserved for imparting useful information as to the existence of unknown dangers.

3.—A copy of your communication has also been forwarded to the hydrographer of the Navy so that information may be given of the existence of this fund to any ship which may in the future be employed in surveying work on the China coast.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

VINCENT H. LAWFORDE,

Secretary to Commodore.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 24th November, 1897.

Sir,—I am instructed by my Committee to beg you to convey to the Commodore their thanks

for the trouble he has taken in connection with the rewards proposed to be given by this Chamber from the Pinnacle Rock Fund for information leading to the discovery of hidden dangers on the coast of China.

My Committee at the same time desire me to say that their idea of the amount to be awarded in each case is a maximum of \$50 for an important danger and lesser sums in the discretion of the distributor for those of minor importance.

Will you also inform the Commodore that the Consuls and Commissioners of Customs at the various Coast Ports will be asked to issue notices that rewards will be given to those pointing out unknown dangers to Her Majesty's Naval Officers?—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Vincent H. Lawford, Esq., R.N., Secretary to Commodore.

THE COMMAND OF THE CHINA STATION.

We hear that Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Buller is expected to hoist the Admiral's flag on his flagship in Hongkong next month. In January Admiral Buller will return to England and Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Hobart Seymour, K.C.B., will take over the command of the China Station.

THE BRIBERY SCANDAL.

THE DISMISSALS CONFIRMED.

We are informed by the Assistant Colonial Secretary that a despatch has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies approving the dismissal of Mr. Osmond, Inspectors Witchell, Stanton, Quincey, and Baker, Sergeant Holt, and Sanitary Inspector T. Hore from the Public Service.

SUICIDE OF MR. W. K. WYLIE.

A terrible tragedy was brought to light early on Sunday morning, 28th November, by the discovery of the dead body of Mr. W. K. Wylie, the Superintendent Engineer of the Hongkong High-Level Tramways Company. The body was found in a pool of blood on the revolver range at the back of the racquet court, and there can be no doubt that the deceased shot himself through the head with a revolver between Saturday afternoon and yesterday morning. Financial difficulties and possible loss of situation were probably the troubles which preyed upon his mind and prompted him to destroy his own life. The deceased had been in the employ of the Tramways Company since 1888 and was well known in the colony as a most enthusiastic Volunteer, his great interest in the Corps being rewarded last January by his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant from that of sergeant. We understand that nothing which would lead his friends to suspect that anything was amiss occurred until Saturday morning, when, about eleven o'clock, he was suspended from the Company's service. It is believed he made no mention of this fact to any of his friends, but the tramway employees knew he was no longer in authority by the fact that his position was filled by someone else. The deceased appeared to be in his usual health and spirits at ten o'clock on Saturday morning, when he visited the Volunteer Headquarters and expressed his intention, as he was orderly officer for the week, of being present that afternoon at the Machine Gun practice on the police range at Kowloon. Shortly afterwards he went to the Tramway Company's office. Soon after twelve o'clock he again visited Headquarters and told Gunner Parsons, the orderly, to get his revolver and fifty rounds of ammunition as he wished, he said, to have practice on the revolver range at the back of the racquet court. Parsons observed nothing whatever strange in Mr. Wylie's behaviour and fetched a revolver and 50 rounds of ammunition from the store. While the revolver was being brought Mr. Wylie sat at the quartermaster-sergeant's desk and wrote a letter, which he finished and sealed just as Parsons returned with the revolver and cartridges. His own weapon could not be found, but he intimated that the one produced by the orderly would do.

He presumably put the letter in his pocket and it is probable that it is the one he wrote to his wife and which was found upon him when his clothing was searched. He left Headquarters just as the 12.30 tram to the Peak was about to leave, and the breaksman, who saw Mr. Wylie emerge from the Headquarters, thought he would be going by that tram. The deceased, however, never went to the station during the day or night and it is probable that he went straight to the revolver range. It is not known precisely at what time he committed the dreadful deed, but the report of a shot was heard about two or three o'clock in the afternoon. At all events, the deceased was not found until about 7.30 yesterday morning, when a Chinaman saw the body and at once went to the house of the soldier in charge of the range. The soldier was out at the time and on returning a few minutes before nine o'clock he immediately went to the spot and then gave information to the police, who removed the body to the mortuary. The revolver was lying at his side near the packet of cartridges, two of which had been used.

The news of the shocking occurrence quickly spread over the colony on Sunday morning and created a painful sensation, much sympathy being expressed for Mrs. Wylie, who is left a widow with three children.

THE INQUEST.

On 29th November Hon. H. E. Wodehouse held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. W. K. Wylie, formerly the superintendent engineer in the employ of the Hongkong High-Level Tramways Company, Limited.

Mr. C. Ewens, solicitor, was present as a member of the Consulting Committee of the Company.

Fung Yuk stated—I am a cook employed at the racquet court. On the 27th inst., at 7.30 a.m., I saw the body of the deceased at the revolver range behind the racquet court. I returned to the house and reported the matter to my mistress, who is the wife of Tso A Chee, the marker. I did not notice whether there was any revolver there, but afterwards I saw one that had been found on the ground. I did not notice whether the deceased was alive or dead, or whether he had any wound. On the 26th instant, at about 2 p.m., I heard a shot in the direction of the racquet court. I know it was about two o'clock, because I had been out that day, and passed the Clock Tower on my way back at 1.50 p.m. I did not go out again that afternoon. I heard only one shot.

Tso A Chee said—I am a marker at the racquet court. I remember the 28th November. At 8 a.m. that day I returned home and in consequence of what I heard from my wife I went with the last witness to the revolver range at the back of the racquet court. Before I got to the body I met a soldier, who was repairing a water pipe. I told him what I had heard from my wife, and he went with us to the range. When we had gone a little way, the soldier told the last witness and myself not to go any further, so we returned.

John Sutton, private, W. Y. R., said—At 8.30 a.m. on the 27th instant I was walking near the racquet court when from information received from the last witness I went on the revolver range, where I found the deceased lying on his back. He had a bullet wound in his head. There was a revolver a few inches from his right hand and a few inches from the revolver was a box of cartridges. There was blood on the ground. I at once told Private Wilding, who was on duty near at hand, and he reported the matter to the police. I remained until the body had been removed. The body had evidently been dead a considerable time. I recognised the body.

Acting Inspector Gillies said—About 8.47 a.m. on the 28th inst. I received a report from Private Wilding, W. Y. R., that a body of a European was lying on the revolver range close to the racquet court. I informed Sergeant Scott and sent for Inspector Parsons.

Inspector Hanson said—On the 28th November, about 8.47 a.m., Sergeant Scott made a report, in consequence of which I went to the revolver range. I found Private Sutton there. I saw the body of the deceased, whom I recognised, lying on his back with his feet towards the Peak. I noticed blood on the ground below the head and also saw a wound behind the right ear.

He was dressed in his ordinary clothes; his vest was open. The revolver was lying about nine inches from his right hand, which was at his side. The holster was lying some distance from the left foot. The box of cartridges was near the revolver; there were twenty-nine cartridges. It was a six-chambered revolver and contained four loaded and two discharged cartridges. There were fifteen cartridges scattered on the ground, making a total of fifty, including the two which were discharged. Before moving the body I searched the clothing. I found a watch and a visiting card in the ordinary watch pocket of his vest. The card bore the name of a gentleman in the Royal Naval Reserve. I found a service envelope addressed "Mrs. Wylie" in his breast pocket. I kept the letter until this morning when I obtained your Worship's authority to give it to Mr. Sinclair. I have not made myself acquainted with the contents. I found one ten cent piece and two five cent pieces on the grass near the body, a penknife in one of the trousers pocket, a pocket handkerchief in another pocket, and a piece of paper on which were some figures which appeared to be shooting scores. There were marks of heavy dew on the clothing as if the body had lain there all night, and the revolver was rusty on the side which had been in contact with the earth. The body was removed to the Government mortuary. I wish further to state that on the afternoon of the 22nd inst., Mr. Hart Buck came to the Police Station and made a communication to me.

His Worship—Mr. Hart Buck will be able to tell us that himself.

Dr. Thomson said—On the 28th instant I made an examination of the body of the deceased. There was a bullet wound about an inch behind the right ear. The bullet had passed right through the head. The wound of exit was about four inches behind and slightly above the left ear. The bullet had passed through the right temporal bone, through the brain, and through the left parietal bone. Brain substance was protruding from the wound behind the right ear. Death was due to shock caused by the passage of the bullet through the brain. The body was quite fresh, and it might have been dead any time within twenty-four hours. Death must have been instantaneous.

Robert Farrar, a private in the West Yorkshire Regiment, said—I knew the deceased. I saw him about 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon last passing my post at the back of Murray Barracks. I did not notice where he went. He had a revolver case and a box of cartridges in his hand. That was close to the path leading to the racquet court. I did not speak to him and he did not speak to me. He was wearing a blue serge suit. I did not hear any shot fired.

John George Brown, lance corporal in the W. Y. R., said—About 3.25 p.m. on the 27th inst. I was waiting for defaulters to be put on drill in the yard at the south of Murray Barracks. I heard two shots fired in rapid succession from the direction of the racquet court. I took no notice of the shots.

Walter Parsons said—I am a gunner in the Royal Artillery. About 12.30 on Saturday last Mr. Wylie came to the Volunteer Headquarters, where I am stationed, and asked me for a revolver and cartridges, saying that he wanted to have some practice. I supplied him with a revolver, case, and fifty rounds of ammunition. The revolver and the case are the ones produced. While I was away he sat at a desk and wrote a letter and when I came back he put the letter in his pocket and went away. He appeared to be in good spirits and was perfectly sober. He was apparently in his right mind; I did not notice anything the matter with him. The Volunteer officers can have revolvers at any time for practice.

Mr. Hart Buck said—I am a partner in the firm of Messrs John D. Humphreys and Son, who are the general managers of the Hongkong High-Level Tramways Company, Limited. I knew the deceased. He was the Superintendent of the tramway and had been in the service of the general managers since 1892 and superintendent of the tramway for about ten years. I had occasion to see him on Saturday between 12 and 1 o'clock. He came to my office in Queen's Road Central by appointment. During the past week we have required certain particulars from him in connection with his accounts. I had

asked him to call on Friday, at 10.30, to see me, to make explanations.

His Worship—What explanations?

Witness—Shall I go into particulars?

His Worship—I think you had better.

Witness—We wished explanations in regard to tickets.

His Worship—I think you had better be explicit and say exactly what took place.

Witness—His accounts were not in order. He used to get a stock of tickets from us as they were required, and give them out to the Chinese conductors, on whom he had to keep a check. We of course required him to give in the money and he was supposed to give daily returns of the takings on the tramway. A little more than a week ago he wanted a packet of two thousand first class return tickets. All the tickets are numbered and I then found by our books that he ought to have had at least a thousand tickets in hand. I asked him to explain why he required more. He said he had all the tickets in the office, but the packets were broken and the tickets scattered, and in many cases the numbers were not consecutive. I said I would send someone up to bring the tickets down and have them repacked. He went away and I at once sent one of my clerks with a note to Mr. Wylie asking him to deliver up the tickets. The clerk came back with some loose tickets of another kind. What I wanted were the first class return tickets. I then wrote describing the tickets I wanted and sent the clerk back again. He came back without the tickets and told me Mr. Wylie would see me. For two or three days he did not come into my office. I wrote to him and asked him to call at 10.30 on Friday morning, the 26th. He came and I then asked him for his explanation. He said he had the tickets in his office but they had been used; they had been punched. I then said "Where is the money?" He could not give any proper explanation. He said he knew he had done a very stupid thing. He had taken other new tickets, torn them in half, and punched them to make them look like used tickets. I told him that no one would believe an explanation of that kind, and that I would go into the matter very carefully with the Consulting Committee, and if he called on Saturday morning at 10.30 I would tell him the result.

His Worship—What money did the missing tickets represent?

Witness—The same day I sent for all the tickets he had at his office. I should say at least \$1,500 was missing. We went into the matter again and I asked Mr. Ewens, a member of the Consulting Committee, to go into the matter with me and we decided it would be necessary to suspend Mr. Wylie. When he called on Saturday morning, about 11.30, I told him the decision that had been come to and that I should send someone to take charge of the tramway. He said he thought the Company might overlook the matter this time, and I told him he ought to consider himself lucky that the Company had not taken further action in the matter. He offered to pay back the money by instalments if he was allowed to retain his position. I told him I did not think we were justified in allowing that. After some further conversation he got up and said, "Mr. Buck, will you shake hands with me for the last time?" I shook hands with him and he went out of the office. I took some one up to the Peak tramway station and put him in charge. I inquired at the lower and top terminus if Mr. Wylie had been seen and I was told he had not. I came down by the 3.45 tram and enquired again with the same result. I then felt rather anxious and went to the Central Police Station, where I saw Inspector Duncan and Inspector Hanson. I told them that Mr. Wylie was in trouble, but it was a private matter and I should like to find out where he had gone. They said they would make enquiries.

His Worship—Did he intimate to you that he would take his life?

Witness—Afterwards I thought that by "shaking hands for the last time" he meant he would take his life. It did not occur to me at the time. He was rather excited, but not angry, and I should say he was remorseful. He said he had always been fairly dealt with by us and that he was in financial difficulties and had been for a long time.

His Worship—What was his salary?

Witness—\$250 a month, a free house, and free coal.

His Worship—Did you know him privately at all?

Witness—No.

Mr. A. Sinclair said—I am the marine superintendent of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited. I have known the deceased fifteen years. I was a friend of his and his family. He would have been forty years of age next March. He was a native of Scotland and was brought up in London. He was a married man with three boys, aged eight, six, and four. I had a letter handed to me by Mr. Hanson for Mrs. Wylie. I gave it to Mrs. Wylie, who returned it to me. She said that she did not see any reason why its contents should not be published, but she would leave it in the hands of the Magistrate. I am now acting as a friend of the family.

His Worship—Have you any objection to the letter being read or published.

Witness—I have no objection to the letter being read by you, but I have an objection to its being published. I think it would be inadvisable.

His Worship—When did you last see deceased alive?

Witness—On Friday morning, the 26th inst. He was passing in a tram at the time. He never mentioned any of his troubles to me. He was a man of sound mind. Until to-day I had not heard of any troubles in connection with his business.

His Worship at this point read the letter privately, and then handed it to Mr. Buck, Mr. Ewens, and the reporters. It was couched in most endearing terms and referred affectionately to his wife and three "dear wee boys" and also to the great trouble that had overtaken him. He also bade good-bye to the Volunteers.

The evidence being concluded His Worship said—I find that death resulted from a bullet wound self inflicted consequent upon mental distress in connection with money difficulties into which deceased had fallen with the Hongkong High Level Tramways Company, of which he had been Superintendent since 1892, and in making that finding I can only say how much one deplores what has taken place. The deceased was in a manner part of ourselves. He was intimately connected with the tramway which has become a necessary and essential part of our existence here, and I have always heard that he was extremely obliging and gave great satisfaction in the general discharge of his duties. Of course now that the deceased is no more, it is useless to comment on what he has done. One could have wished that he had taken a more sensible view of the situation, and what I might call a more courageous and manly part, and that he might have considered his wife and family whom he has plunged into such distress, and with whom I am sure everyone will sympathise in their trouble. I think it is right also to add that the evidence which Mr. Hart Buck has given has been most straightforward and that considering the suspicions entertained he could have taken no other action than he did in suspending the deceased from duty. The deceased seems to have been perfectly fairly treated in the whole transaction.

THE FUNERAL.

On Monday afternoon the deceased was buried at the Happy Valley with full military honours. The coffin, which was covered with the Union Jack and a large number of wreaths, was borne on a gun carriage and drawn from the Volunteer Headquarters by members of both units. On the way to the cemetery the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment played funeral marches. A large number of Volunteers, including all the officers, followed the deceased to his final resting place, and at the grave side scores of private residents assembled to pay their last respects to the deceased. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, and at the conclusion a firing party of Volunteers fired three volleys over the grave, and then the "Last Post" was sounded.

The steamer *Pelican*, from Tacoma, to Tientsin, with sleepers, and to call at one of the Japan ports for coal, is now considerably overdue. She left Tacoma on October 12.

DEATH OF M. IMBAULT HUART.

M. Imbault Huart, French Consul at Canton, who died on 29th November at the Peak Hospital at the early age of forty, had been employed in the French Consular Service in China for seventeen years, and in the different posts he held had rendered distinguished service. An accomplished sinologue and a member of the French Geographical Society, he was known and appreciated not only as a competent diplomat, but also as an author, and his books on the Chinese language are highly appreciated by Chinese scholars. He was appointed to the Consulate at Canton ten years ago, and the qualities he displayed secured for him the Cross of the Legion of Honour and that of Officer of the Academy. He has died in the flower of his age, at the time when his completely matured faculties entitled him to anticipate high promotion and a career of extended usefulness to his country. His death will be deeply regretted by the numerous friends of all nationalities that he had made, and the deepest sympathy will be extended to his widow and children, and to his mother in France, in the sad loss they have sustained. The cause of death, we understand, was dysentery complicated with disease of the liver.

THE FUNERAL.

At the Roman Catholic Cathedral on the 30th November a high requiem Mass was celebrated by Monseigneur Chausse, French Bishop of Canton, for the repose of the soul of Mr. C. Imbault Huart, late Consul for France at Canton. The coffin was placed on a dais in the centre of the church, and was covered with the French flag, over which were laid the Consul's uniform, sword, and hat. The columns were draped in black, and wreaths of flowers surrounded the dais. H.E. the Governor was represented by Captain Phillips, A.D.C., and there were also present the Consuls of the different nationalities, the French Vice-Consul of Canton, five officers from different corps of the garrison, a number of French officers from the *Comete*, and friends of the deceased. The mass was concluded at 11.30 and the remains were then conveyed to the Roman Catholic Cemetery. A detachment of fifty soldiers headed the procession as a guard of honour and the Band of the West Yorks was in attendance and played the funeral march. The service at the Happy Valley was officiated by the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli and at the conclusion three volleys were fired over the grave. The Consular flags were half-masted during the day.

FATAL FIRE IN THIRD STREET.

FIFTEEN LIVES LOST.

Just before midnight on 23rd Nov. a fire broke out in a family house at 64, Third Street, and fifteen of the occupants were either burnt to death or suffocated. The houses in Third Street are for the most part of a very poor description. They contain two storeys, in which several rooms are partitioned off into cubicles as sleeping apartments for members of the family and their friends, so that when fully occupied there is very little spare space in the buildings. It was doubtless owing to this crowded condition of the premises and the consequent presence of so much inflammable material that such a serious loss of life has taken place. The fire originated on the ground floor and it is supposed that there were altogether seventeen people in the house at the time. The flames quickly spread and before the arrival of the Fire Brigade, which turned out promptly under Mr. May and Mr. Howe, two men, nine women, and four children had fallen victims either to fire or smoke. It is thought that most, if not all, these poor people were sleeping on the first floor when the outbreak occurred, and from the position in which the corpses were found it is probable that ten of the occupants met their death in trying to get out of the burning house by the stairs leading from the first to the ground floor. Five of the number endeavoured to save their lives by running to the kitchen, in which there was a manhole communicating with the ground floor, but as there was no ladder in the manhole the people were doubtless too afraid to jump down or else were driven back by the smoke. Be that as it may all the five bodies were found close together in the kitchen, and facing the wall, two of them being in an almost

perpendicular position. Several of the women held bags of money, their savings after years of toil, and one bag contained \$700. Two others each held a little child in her arms. It may be imagined, therefore, that the occupants were in a frantic condition and this is no doubt the reason why none of them attempted to escape by jumping out of the window, which could easily be reached and which was only about thirteen feet from the ground. When recovered many of the fifteen corpses were charred so much that recognition is perhaps impossible. The bodies were taken to the mortuary to await the inquest.

THE INQUEST.

On 23th November Hon. H. E. Wodehouse opened the inquest on the bodies of the fifteen people who met their death in the fire of Tuesday night at No. 64, Third Street.

Lam Tsun Fuk an unemployed boatman, deposed to having identified each of the fifteen bodies taken out of No. 64, Third Street on the 24th November between midnight and 2 a.m. They were those of two men, nine women, and four girls. The girls' ages ranged from 3 to 12 years. He had been living in the house for over twenty years. After giving a detailed description of the way the floors were partitioned, he said he was not present when the fire broke out, but ran back as soon as he heard the alarm. He arrived too late to render assistance to the people inside.

Sergeant Gauld, after having given a detailed description of the premises, said:—"On the night of the 23rd November, I was at No. 7, Police Station. At 11.50 I was awakened by the man on duty at the station and he told me there was a fire in Third Street. Seven minutes after I was called I was on the spot. I saw a house in flames. The fire was very fierce and flames were shooting out of the doors on the ground floor and the windows on the first floor. The staircase was mostly consumed. I did not hear any sounds of people inside. Nothing could have been done when I got there to save anybody. There are particular instructions for the use of the Fire Brigade with regard to the steps to be taken for saving life. They are contained in an order dated the 9th December, 1896. This is the only order of which I am aware relating to the saving of life. In this case it was impossible to carry out the instructions as the fire was too fierce. I am not aware that there are any appliances in the Brigade specially directed to the saving of life.

At this point the enquiry was adjourned.

FIRE IN SECOND STREET.

At 7.15 a.m. on 23th Nov. a fire broke out at the Kwong Hing Loong tea merchants' shop at No. 122, Second Street, West Point. The house was a two storeyed one, and the fire originated on the first floor through the accidental upsetting of a kerosine lamp near one of the front windows. The fire brigade turned out smartly and the flames were quickly got under. The occupants, in their hurry to get away, neglected to take with them the shop's books. A few of these were consumed but the greater number merely had their edges slightly burnt, and were somewhat damaged by water. The safe likewise had not been opened, and six hundred dollars were found in it. The ground floor, in which the tea was stored, did not suffer any material damage from the fire, but the packages of tea were soaked with water. The premises were insured with Messrs. Butterfield & Swire in the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company for \$4,000.

CHARITY FETE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The fete held in the Government House grounds on Saturday has, we trust, resulted in a handsome contribution towards the winter relief of the East London poor. Fortunately the weather was most favourable for an al fresco fete, and it is certain that the attractions provided were numerous and interesting enough to draw a large number of people. There was something to do or to see during the whole time the fete was in progress, thanks to the excellent arrangements made by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold and his staff of willing assistants, and

people could wander where they wished and find ample opportunities for exercising their purse strings. The flower stall, the Japanese stall, the fancy stall, and the refreshment stall were loaded with choice things which very sufficiently tempted the people to buy, while Aunt Sally, always an irresistible attraction, the croquet pool, and the cocoa-nuts were responsible for a good share of the sums subscribed. The May-pole dances were very pretty indeed and the art gallery was also a conspicuous success. The works of art were works of ingenuity as well. Two "pictures" particularly appealed sympathetically to every visitor. One, "The world went very well then," by Sir R. Jardine, was represented by an old chopped Chinese dollar, bent out of recognition, placed on the scales and balancing exactly four shillings. Now look at the other picture—"Degenerate Days." A bright, new unsoiled British dollar in one scale and one shilling and nine pence in the other. Degenerate days indeed! "The Charge of the Light Brigade" was a Gas Company's bill; "Pillars of Greece" were represented by candles; "The way through the Wood," by T. E. R. Mite, vividly illustrated the penetrating power of the termite. These are only a few of the works of art picked out at random; they were all most apt and afforded considerable interest as well as amusement.

In the afternoon there were two concerts, which gave much enjoyment and were well attended. The programme of the first was as follows:—

Song....."Penso".....Miss Loureiro.
Skirt Dance.....Miss Holland.
Sparrring exhibition.
J. Hucker and H. Holbrow (H.M.S. Victor Emanuel.)
Violin and piano....."Shepherd's Dance," from Henry VIII.
M. Giraud and Miss Holland.

Comic Song....."The Lamplighter" (Mr. C. T. Robinson)

The first May-pole dance followed and then there was another concert, the programme of which was as under:—

Exhibition of sparring.
Song....."Allor ed Oggi".....Miss Loureiro.
Dance....."Irish Jig".....Misses Holland.
Violin solo & piano....."Reverie"
"Spanish Dance"
M. Giraud and Mrs. May.

Humorous stories.....Mr. C. T. Robinson.
The last item in the afternoon's list of attractions was an exceedingly clever conjuring entertainment given by Professor Stokini, who is known, it is said, by every crowned and uncrowned head in Europe, and who returned to the colony after performing before the principal Courts. "Entrance 50 cents, which will be returned if you don't like the show." But everybody liked the show and the Professor must be congratulated upon the great success he scored.

In the evening the grounds were brilliantly illuminated with Chinese lanterns and fairy lamps, and the visitors had a capital evening's fun. Another concert was held at which the following items were given:—
Song with violin accompaniment....."Serenade"
Mrs. May and M. Giraud.
Skirt Dance and the Cachucha.....Miss Seth.
Violin Solo....."Serenade"
"Spanish Dance"
M. Giraud & Mrs. May.
Song....."La Vie est Belle".....Miss Loureiro.
Then the Blackbird Minstrels took the boards and gave a very enjoyable half an hour's performance.

The fete altogether was an undoubted success and a word of praise is due to the following ladies and gentlemen who kindly gave their assistance:—

Refreshment Stall.—Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Ritchie.
Flower Stall.—Mrs. Layton, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Johnstone, Miss Carrington.
Japanese Stall.—Mrs. Poate, Mrs. Trevelyan, Mrs. David, Miss Danby.
Fancy Stall.—Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Tomes, Mrs. Siebs, Mrs. Drury.
Fire Art Gallery.—Mrs. Shepherd, Miss Shepherd.

The illuminations in the evening were arranged by Mr. Barton. Mrs. T. Jackson

most kindly acted as banker during the day. The May-pole dance was organised by Mrs. Holland.

Croquet Pool.—Mrs. Saunders.
Cocoa-nuts.—Mrs. Long and Mrs. Wellman.
Aunt Sally.—Mrs. Osborne and Miss L. Danby.

MURDEROUS RAID BY BANDITS.

THIRTY PEOPLE KILLED.

At the Police Court on 27th Nov. the hearing of a rendition case brought out the facts of an atrocious murder which was committed on the 14th June last in the village of Ko Chin lieo, district of Haifong, prefecture of Hueni. The victims were twenty-four men, two women (one of whom was *enceinte*), and four children between eight and ten years of age. It appears that on the evening of the day in question the villagers were quietly reposing after their meal, when a band of robbers, 1,000 strong, and led by a man named Lam Tai Kau, swooped down upon them from a neighbouring hill, murdering all those who came in their way. They then sacked the place and took away with them property and money to a value of twenty thousand taels. The matter was reported to the mandarins at Haifong, and soldiers were sent out to arrest the bandits. A reward was likewise offered for the capture of the leader of the band, Lam Tai Kau, but that personage mysteriously disappeared, and it was not until quite recently that information was brought to the official at Haifong that Lam Tai Kau was in hiding at Hongkong. Two lieutenants were instantly sent to this colony and they informed Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, of the presence of the murderer in the colony. A warrant was issued, and Lam Tai Kau was arrested by a Chinese detective at Yaumation on the 19th November. On Saturday he was brought before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Police Magistrate, for the purpose of identification. Mr. T. A. Howe, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Police, was in charge of the case.

The first witness called was Ko Lai Mue, who started at once to curse at the prisoner, but was asked to keep cool. He said—I am a farmer in the Ko Chin lieo village, district of Haifong. On the evening of the 14th June, after I had taken my meal, I was sitting in my house in company with six other men. I saw the defendant leading over one thousand men to our village. They were armed with swords and spears, and some held banners. The defendant was armed with two knives and I saw him kill my father just outside the door of my house. He also killed my nephew, aged 27. I did not offer any resistance but ran for my life. I know the defendant. He is from the Chan Sui Pi village, which is a short distance away from mine. He is a robber.

Ko Nai Su, another farmer, stated that the robbers made a rush at the village from the foot of the hill. His brother, Ko Kwei Yen, aged 62, was killed. The defendant was the head of the Chan Shu Pi village and was a robber. No resistance was offered against them.

The third witness, Ko Wei Yue, also a farmer, said—After my evening meal on the 14th June I was sitting in my house with my uncle and aunt. We suddenly heard the cry, "Lam Tai Kau is leading a band of robbers upon us." We got up and ran for our lives. I was a little ahead. We were pursued, and I saw the defendant leading the force with two knives in his hands. He had likewise a drum and was urging on his men to kill the people. The gang gained upon us, and I saw my uncle and aunt killed by them. I escaped, but returned to the village three or four days after, to learn that thirty persons had been murdered, among them being two women and four children. The robbers had likewise sacked the village, and taken away property and money to the value of twenty thousand taels. The prisoner is a thief. The robbers had never been to our village before. That was their first raid. There was another village that aided them.

At this point Mr. Howe asked His Worship to remand the case as no requisition had been received from the Chinese Authorities for the prisoner's rendition.

The case was remanded till next Saturday.

THE GANG ROBBERY AND MURDER IN BURD STREET.

The four men charged with the robbery and murder in Burd Street were again brought before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Police Magistrate, on 23rd Nov.

Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, said—On the 15th instant at 10.15 p.m. I received information that a robbery had been committed in Burd Street and that a man had been shot. I went to Burd Street at once and met P.C. 312 at No. 27, Burd Street. I took him and the master of the Kwong Hop Yuen to make search. We began with Kwai Wa Lane. We went into the houses one by one. I sent the constable and the master of the shop into the houses, while I remained in the lane and kept ahead of the search party so as to prevent people from escaping. After getting nearly to the end of the lane, the master came running out of the Fung Shang brothel and said to me, "There are three men upstairs and also the watch I lost. I want to go to the accountant of my shop, who knows the number of the watch." I told him he might go. He left and returned in a few minutes' time with the accountant. I was standing under an archway in the lane from where I kept a watch upon the door of the brothel. When the two men came up, I took them into the brothel. At the top of the stairs, I saw P.C. 312, three women, and the first defendant, standing on the landing. The constable handed me a watch and chain, which I passed over to the accountant. He said he recognised the watch, but could not remember the exact number of it. I put the watch into my pocket and sent the master to fetch the police. P.C. 312 then told me there were two other men in one of the rooms. I went into the room and he fetched the two men. I took hold of the first defendant, and he the other two. We went downstairs, and in the lane met a district watchman and two Indian constables, who had been brought by the master. I told the two Indians and P.C. 312 to take the three men to the Central Police Station, and I then went with the master and the accountant of the Kwong Hop Yuen shop to No. 27, Burd Street. I watched the master searching on the ground floor for the case of the watch. The accountant went up to the first floor and I could hear him moving some boxes about. He came down in about ten minutes' time and brought a case. I opened it and found a ticket on which was the number of the watch, 23,423. I also found a paper on which were the Chinese characters "Po Wai" (Gaupp and Co.), the name of the makers. Those characters also appeared on the watch. I asked the accountant where he had found the case, and he said, "In a box upstairs." I went up and saw an open box containing a number of miscellaneous articles. The house was being white washed, and the articles had been bundled into it. The reason why I searched Kwai Wa Lane first was because several houses in other lanes had already been searched by the constables but none of those in Kwai Wa Lane had been entered.

Sergeant Scott proved to the finding of a revolver in Burd Street about a hundred yards from the Kwong Hop Yuen shop. At 12.30 p.m. on the 16th instant, he went with P.C. 143 to No. 287, Queen's Road Central, and among a heap of rubbish in a corner of a room on the second floor, found three revolvers, eight rounds of ammunition, two pieces of cord similar to the one attached to the revolver he found in Burd Street, and sundry other things.

Mr. C. Heermann said he was the proprietor of Messrs. Gaupp & Co. The watch and case shown to him were sold by the firm to a Chinaman on the 10th December, 1895. The name of the buyer was not recorded, but he received a ticket on which were written the number of the watch and the number of the quality. The ticket produced was the one given for the watch and the writing on it he recognised as being his Portuguese clerk's. The sale, he said, had been entered in the books.

Au Hing, Chinese constable 143, stated that on the 16th instant at about 8 p.m. he went with three detectives and an informer to search the brothels in Square Street. They found nothing there, but at the entrance of the Man Mo Temple the informer pointed out to him the third defendant, who was in the company of two

other men, as being one of those implicated in the Burd Street robbery. He thereupon arrested the three men.

Inspector Hanson gave evidence as to the identification of the prisoners by the shopmen.

25th November.

Further evidence was taken of the identification of the robbers and the body of the lad who was shot.

Lam Yam Po, Sergeant Interpreter at the Central Police Station, was then called. He stated that on the 17th instant, he read out to the prisoners the charge of murder preferred against them, and took down their statements. The first prisoner said:—"I did not commit the crime. I am quite a stranger here; how could I have committed the crime? I was never here before. I came to look for a relation of mine to get me employment. I brought a Po Wai watch with me from Canton, and also \$4.50. I pray his Honour will release me." The second prisoner said:—"I came out from my native place to this colony to look for a clansman whose mother was very ill. I went to Kowloon and returned to Hongkong but could not find him. As I failed to find him I pawned several articles with the intention of returning home, but was arrested by the Police. I did not commit the crime. I trust his Honour will yield to his kindly feelings and discharge me at once, as my mother is an aged woman." The third prisoner said:—"I came over here from Kowloon to buy some goods. I did not commit the crime. I hope his Honour will institute enquiries from the Kai Fong and from the Yee Hing Loong shop in Central Market about me." The fourth prisoner said:—"I did not commit the crime. I left Shek Loong on the 15th inst. for Hongkong. On my arrival here I pawned several dollars' worth of articles to buy things, but as it was too late in the night to get anything, I went to the Fung Shan Brothel at Kwai Wa Lane, and was there arrested by the Police. I came to Hongkong alone. If his Honour will cause enquiries to be made in the Fung Shan Brothel and at the On Kee shop, he will be assured that I came here alone."

The case was adjourned until Friday.

26th November.

At the request of Mr. F. H. May, Lam Ngak, the man who had hired the floor in Queen's Road Central for the first defendant, was recalled and stated that when he went to visit the first defendant on the 15th instant, he found the second and fourth defendants with the first. After sitting there for about twenty minutes, the third defendant also went up in company with another man. The five then held a whispered conversation, and he overheard the remark, "Better go at nine o'clock."

Mr. May said the evidence that the witness Lam Ngak had just given came only to his notice that morning. Mr. May had asked him if he had ever seen the third defendant in the company of the first, second, and fourth defendants. He was also asked if he had seen a fifth man in their company, and he then said what he stated in his evidence in Court.

The evidence that Lam Ngak gave on a former occasion was that at about noon on the 14th November, as he was walking in Queen's Road, he met the first, the second, and the fourth defendants. He had known the first defendant in the country. He was told that all three had come down from Canton, and he was asked by the first defendant to hire a room for him, as he was going to open a shop. Witness took him to see the second floor of the Lee Cheong Loong shop in Queen's Road Central. The second and fourth defendants had left them. The first defendant engaged the whole floor for \$16 a month and paid witness one \$5 note in advance. Witness obtained the key for him, and then left. At eight o'clock that night witness returned to the house and found the first, second, and fourth defendants living there. He remained for about half an hour and then went away. On the 15th instant at about 6 p.m. he again went to the house and saw the same three people there. They were the only people on the floor and occupied the whole flat. He afterwards saw the defendants in the goal and identified them.

Inspector Duncan said he was in the Central Police Station when the first, second, and fourth defendants were taken there at 1.30 a.m. on the

16th inst. He had them searched. He found on the first prisoner \$21.90, which consisted of three five-dollar notes, one silver dollar, and the remainder in small change; on the second prisoner he found one pawnticket, a purse, a silver watch and chain, and \$4.21 consisting of one silver dollar and the remainder in small change, and on the third prisoner two pawn tickets and \$6.49, consisting of three silver dollars and the remainder in small change. The three dollars were chopped, and one of them was the dollar produced in Court.

The prisoners being duly cautioned were asked what statements they had to make.

The first two had nothing further to add to what they had already stated. The third asked His Worship to dispose of the case summarily as otherwise he should die. The fourth said that in spite of the numerous identifications the witnesses for the prosecution had failed to recognise him at first. They only picked him out afterwards because they were pushed on by the constables. If His Worship thought he was one of the robbers, then so were the constables picked out by the men at the time of the identifications.

On being asked if they had any witnesses to call, the third defendant said he had, and immediately several voices in the crowd assembled at the back of the Court proclaimed they were willing to speak in his favour, and two men stepped out. They were taken out of the Court. In reply to the Magistrate's questions, the prisoner stated: "I came from Kowloon on the 16th instant to buy things. I bought the articles, but did not catch the launch in time to return home. I went to supper with a friend of mine who lives in Circular Pathway, but I don't quite recollect the number of the house. After supper I went out for a walk and was arrested at the Man Mo Temple. I act as substitute for constables at Kowloon. When I am not doing that, I sell olives. I have been selling olives in Kowloon, Hongkong, and Yau-mati. When acting as substitute for constables, I served under Kai Chong and Chan Chong, two headmen. If your Worship will not believe my story, I pray you will send someone over to Kowloon to make enquiries about me. Several of my folks there will be willing to give evidence in my favour."

Wan Pong was called and stated—I am a constable in the employ of Wong Tai-jen at Kowloon. I know the defendant. He is my cousin and came out from the country two years ago to find employment here. He carries on business as an olive hawker with a man named Chan Ping, who lives in Circular Pathway. He is at present living at Kowloon in the same station as myself. He has been acting as substitute for constables for several months. He came to Hongkong on the 16th instant to buy things. The headman knew that he came to Hongkong. The arrest of the defendant came to our knowledge on the 19th instant. We consulted together with our headmen about coming to see your Worship, but the headmen told us to wait for your Worship's decision on the matter. I do not know Lam Ngak. I am not aware what motive Lam Ngak has for saying that the defendant was one of the robbers. On the night of the 15th instant, the defendant was at the station in Kowloon. He only came over on the 16th. I pray your Worship will send someone over to Kowloon. Every one knows him in the station there. The names of the headmen are Kai Chong and Chan Chong.

Tang Kai Hau said he was an unemployed coppersmith living in Second Street. He knew the third defendant. On the 16th instant, the defendant went to his house for a seat at about 5 p.m. He had known the prisoner when he was in Tung Kwn. He did not know Lam Ngak, nor why Lam Ngak had brought the charge against the defendant.

The third defendant, in his statement at the station, made mention of the Yee Hing Loong shop. The accountant of the shop was called and stated:—My name is Chan Kong. I am accountant in the Yee Hing Loong fruit shop at the Central Market. I have been employed there for eleven years. The master's name is Pang Sui Tak. I recognise the third defendant. He acted for some time as substitute for our cook, who had

gone on leave, and left when the cook returned at the end of last year (Chinese). During the time he was in the shop, there was nothing against him.

The master of the On Kee shop was also called to say what he knew about the fourth defendant, who had made mention of the shop in his statement. He said his name was Wan On. He knew the fourth defendant, who was a clansman of his. The defendant had gone to his shop on the morning of the 15th instant (he was certain it was the 15th), and said he had come from the country. Witness had not seen him for years and asked him to stay for breakfast, but he said he had some articles to buy and left.

The Magistrate committed the prisoners for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

THE BITE BITTEN.

A coolie was on 26th Nov. charged with stealing two revolvers from the Ordnance Store on the 22nd November.

Ng Tin Fuk said—I am head coolie in the Ordnance Store Department. I have been employed there eleven years and the defendant two years. On the 22nd instant at about 11.30 a.m. I was writing at a table in the Armoury. The defendant was also in the room cleaning some rifles. I had occasion to lift my eyes and saw the defendant looking at me, and at the same time putting something up his clothes. I went over to him and looked at the arms he was cleaning. I missed two revolvers from among them. I began to search the defendant and he dropped the rifle that he was cleaning and ran off. I picked up a spanner and threw it at him. It hit him on the head, and I saw him lifting up his hands to cover the wound. While he was doing so, the two revolvers dropped from his person. I seized him and took him back to the place where he had been cleaning the arms to see if anything else was missing. I then took him before my master.

The defendant stated—I did not steal the revolvers. I had a quarrel with the complainant over his wife. She was in the habit of coming to my house in Queen's Road East. She had been warned by her husband not to come, but in spite of that she still came. The complainant had threatened to shoot me. On the day in question he struck me with the spanner, and then charged me with stealing the revolver.

Inspector Mann said that about a week before the 22nd November the defendant had reported to him that complainant had threatened to assault him (defendant) and was continually following him. No reasons were given, but it appeared that the complainant and the defendant had been living together in the same house, but owing to some dispute over the complainant's woman, whom the Inspector believed to be the wife of some other person, the parties had left the house and ever since lived separately.

Fung Ying, another coolie of the Ordnance Store, stated that on the 22nd instant, he saw the complainant struggling with the defendant, and likewise saw him hitting the latter with a spanner. He had often heard them quarrelling about the complainant's concubine.

Hon. H. E. Wodehouse dismissed the charge and fined the complainant \$25, or in default six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour, for giving false testimony.

THE POLO TOURNAMENT.

FIRST TIE.

In sunny weather, the first tie for the Autumn Polo Tournament was brought to a finish on Monday afternoon, 22nd Nov. As was generally expected, the Regiment proved victorious, the score being five goals and two subsidiaries as against two goals. The sides have been already published and their composition foretold the above result. At the very commencement of the game Wood gave a sample of the form he was in by scoring a goal after a fast, clean-hitting run, and on the change of ends, owing to excellent support from his side, he repeated the performance.

For some few minutes the game was a good up and down one, and had the Civilians even endeavoured to keep their places and act a little in unison the third goal (Wood again) might have been saved. On recommencing the second quarter Landale came to the front with surprising results, and by dashing play under

trying circumstances scored two goals, the latter one being gained by a magnificent shot on the near side of his pony. This performance woke both the players and the audience up, and when Cox was given "offside" only just in time to save a third goal after a good run by May, the supporters of the Civilians began to feel some hope that the game might yet be saved; but Tew, who so far had had very little to do, scored a goal from a sitter, and another shortly after by Wood placed the final result beyond doubt. The remainder of the game was on the part of the Civilians a purely defensive one; and the bell rang when two more subsidiaries by the Regiment had been added. On the whole the game was a good one, and if only to impress the value of combination once again upon all concerned, served its purpose of benefiting Hongkong polo. On either side the one man element was too apparent; but Wood was most excellently supported by Spencer, who seems to be a steadily improving player, and also the opposing back, during the first quarter at any rate, was completely "non est" owing to the unselfish play of Gordon—(it will be interesting to see what this player will do against the back of the Gunner's team)—while as to Landale, he played the game alone, to all intents and purposes, as his supporters, from want of practice in the one case and experience in the other, were only very occasionally of any assistance. Tew played somewhat scrappily and kept too far back for a winning side, and want of practice once again showed very plainly in his hitting.

The Tournament is the sixth for the Hon. F. H. May's cup.

FINAL TIE.

The final for the Autumn polo tournament was played on Friday last and resulted in an easy win of 7 goals to 1 for the Regiment.

The game was a very one-sided one and to many, while offering sincere congratulations to the regiment, the result was rather disappointing, as the Gunners had shown such a truly sporting spirit in entering a team at all. The first quarter of the game was fairly fast, and for a short time Burney and Buzzard threatened the stable goal, but combination practice and ponies told after this and in spite of the heroic efforts of Burney, who throughout both quarters, although watched by all the Regimental team and especially by two of its members, played very pluckily and very well. Goal after goal was scored by Wood. Spencer again played well and enabled Wood to establish the substantial lead of four goals. The Regimental back did not play up to his form until after he had scored a very fine goal, which seemed to improve both his play and hitting wonderfully.

On the second quarter the Regiment's No. 1 came much more to the front, while the Gunners' play became slow and sticky to a degree; but this very failing, while it prevented the Regiment getting in any telling play, gave Burney one or two chances which he made full use of. The Gunners scored one goal in the latter end of the 1st quarter. By the kindness of the officers of the Hongkong Regiment, the Band attended and played to a very much larger audience than is usually seen on the polo ground. The warmth of the applause made up in some measure for the coldness of the weather.

Mrs. May presented the cup to the Regiment, this being the third time in succession that they have won it. On Wednesday next the Club will try conclusions with the Regiment, the former team to consist of Mr. Creagh, Mr. Landale, Capt. Burney, and Mr. Platt. An excellent game will very likely be witnessed.

ON LOOKER.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

KOWLOON DETACHMENT—SHOOTING COMPETITION.

The first of six competitions for a handsome cup presented by Mr. D. Gillies for competition confined to Kowloon Detachment took place on the Association Range. The following were the best scores:—

	200	400	500	Hand.	Total
Gunner Swanston	23	27	26	18	94
Lieut. MacDonald	31	29	29	—	89
Gunner Stewart	31	31	25	—	87
Sergt. McPhail	29	25	32	—	86
Gunner Wilson	25	24	18	18	85

CRICKET.

A match between scratch teams captained by Mr. Wood and Mr. Howard was played on the Cricket ground on 27th Nov. The following are the scores:—

MR. WOOD'S ELEVEN	
C. W. Gordon, b Hastings	2
Capt. Langhorne, c Hastings, b Smith	57
M. D. Wood, not out	102
Lt. Fairie, R.N., b Howard	4
P. A. Cox, run out	36
E. R. Morris, b Gillett	8
A. Mackenzie, b Gillett	2
H. S. Moberley, H.K.R., not out	14
Extras	9
* 234	

* Innings declared close d

BOWLING ANALYSIS.					
Overs	Maid.	Runs	Wides	N.B.	Wickets.
J.F.A. Hastings 19	4	48	—	—	1
Lt. Gillett 15	3	40	—	—	2
Noble 6	1	19	—	—	—
Davis 5	—	15	—	—	—
Smith 11	—	51	—	—	1
Howard 7	—	52	—	—	1

MR. HOWARD'S ELEVEN.

T. S. Smith, run out	41
Lt. Gillett, R.N., b Mackenzie	44
J. F. A. Hastings, R.N., b Lammert	5
T. N. Howard, W.Y.R., not out	102
P. G. Davis, R.A., c Fairie, b Wood	10
J. M. Atkinson, c Fairie, b Wood	8
K. W. Mounsey, not out	12
Extras	17

Total for five wickets 239

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs	Maid.	Runs	Wides	N.B.	Wickets.
A. Mackenzie 13	2	59	—	—	1
Lt. Dewar, R.N. 8	—	35	—	—	—
M. D. Wood 13.1	1	50	—	—	2
R. F. Lammert 10	—	50	—	—	1
P. A. Cox 4	1	15	1	—	—
E. R. Morris 2	—	13	—	—	—

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

SECOND CLUB RACE, NOV. 21st, 1897.

The wind on Sunday was light and variable in direction, ranging from north-east to south. The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rocks, and dinghy off pier, twice round; 13 miles. The following boats started at 1.30:—

FIRST CLASS.

Active	Mr. H. E. Pollock
Meteor	Mr. T. W. Lammert
Maid Marian	Mr. J. Hastings
Phoebe	Mr. F. H. May
Erica	Mr. A. Denison
Sybil	Officers, R.E.
Chanticleer	Mr. C. A. Tomes

SECOND CLASS.

Dart	Dr. Clark
Payne	Officers, R.E.
Ladybird	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson

The boats got off very well together and divided into two detachments, one consisting of the Phoebe, Maid Marian, Sybil, Payne, and Dart, working the Kowloon shore, and the others working the Hongkong side. There was a fairly strong flood tide and at first the Hongkong contingent, led by Erica, Active, and Ladybird appeared to be doing better than the others, but when half way to Channel Rocks they met the worst of the tide and Maid Marian and Phoebe arrived at the Rocks first and second. Unfortunately for the Phoebe, her jib sheet ties gave way when she was leading, and she lost 3 or 4 minutes and first place. Active had been sailing remarkably well and was third at the Rocks, which were rounded as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
Maid Marian	2	21	10
Phoebe	2	28	35
Active	2	30	0
Meteor	2	33	30
Erica	2	33	40
Ladybird	2	36	30
Sybil	2	40	10
Chanticleer	2	44	0
Payne	2	53	20
Dart	3	20	50

On the run down to Kowloon Rock Meteor was passed by Erica, but otherwise the same order was maintained.

It was a reach to Dock Point and a run to the line in the same order and the dinghy off the Pier was rounded as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
Maid Marian ...	2	88	48
Phoebe ...	3	2	50
Active ...	3	5	15
Erica ...	3	7	45
Meteor ...	3	10	25
Ladybird ...	3	12	26
Sybil ...	3	16	32
Chanticleer ...	3	20	0
Payne ...	3	33	45
Dart ...	4	11	40

The Dart here gave up. In the second beat up to Channel Rocks Erica passed Active and nearly caught Phoebe, and Meteor went away from Ladybird. The wind was falling lighter and the leading boats had the best of the breeze. In fact Sybil, Payne, and Chanticleer were scarcely able to stem the tide. In the run down to Kowloon Rock Phoebe lost second place to Erica, but Maid Marian still was a long way ahead of the two. Active was here a very good fourth, leading Meteor by about 5 minutes. The wind fell away very fast and the Maid ran away from the next boats, the line being crossed as follows at the finish:—

	H.	M.	S.	
Maid Marian ...	4	44	41	10 marks
Erica ...	4	54	38	4 "
Phoebe ...	4	55	10	1 "
Active ...	4	55	51	
Meteor ...	5	0	15	
Ladybird ...	5	13	0	10 marks
Chanticleer ...	5	39	2	
Payne ...	—	—	—	4 "

The marks scored by the boats up to date are:—

Maid Marian ...	20
Payne ...	14
Ladybird ...	14
Erica ...	8
Chanticleer ...	1
Phoebe ...	1
Dart ...	1

SECOND RACE FOR THE COMMODORE'S CUPS, 27TH NOVEMBER.

The second race for the two cups presented by the Hon. F. H. May, the commodore of the club, was sailed on Saturday afternoon in a north wind of variable strength and turned out to be the final race, the Erica and Ladybird winning both races, each in her own class.

The course was from the starting line, round the Channel Rocks, Kowloon No. 1 Dock buoy, and the west buoy off Meyer's oil works, round each mark twice, leaving all to port, and back across the starting line. 10 miles.

The following boats started at 2.30:—

A CLASS.			
Erica	Mr. A. Denison	allowed	
Meteor	Mr. C. H. Kew	1½ minutes	
Chanticleer	Mr. C. A. Tomes	1½ "	
Maid Marian	Mr. J. Hastings	2 "	
Active	Mr. H. E. Pollock	4 "	

B CLASS.			
Ladybird	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson	allowed	
Payne	Officers R.E.	2 minutes	
Dart	Dr. Clarke	3 "	
Elfin	Mr. W. Hamann	4 "	
She	Mr. E. Hazeland	5 "	
Seabreeze	Capt. Long	10 "	

A few minutes before the starting time there was a nice north-east wind, which died away just before gun fire and several boats got left, Active not being able to cross the line for 4½ minutes, Chanticleer for 10 minutes, and Payne for 15 minutes after the others. Maid Marian and Meteor were recalled, but the former did not return far enough and was thus disqualified from the start. Erica went through the fleet and in ten minutes had a lead of about half a mile of everything but Maid Marian which was about 200 yards behind her.

The boats had the wind on the port bow, and nearly all fetched the Channel Rocks in one tack, Erica being first round a minute in front of Maid Marian. Phoebe, cruising round the course, came next, then Meteor and Active. Ladybird was leading in the second class with Dart and She in close attendance. A reach to Kowloon Dock buoy and a run to Meyer's buoy completed the first round, by which time Erica had increased her lead to four minutes of the Maid, which was a long way in front of anything else. The Active was doing very well, having made

up her lost 4½ minutes on the other boats. Ladybird was proving her light weather superiority over the rest of her class and opening out a lead. The order at Channel Rocks was Erica, Maid Marian, Active. Phoebe, Meteor, Ladybird, Chanticleer, She, Dart, and Payne. The rest had given up. In the run down Dart got in front of She, but not far enough to make up her time, and the boats crossed the line as below:—

A CLASS.			
	H.	M.	S.
Erica ...	4	49	59
Maid Marian ...	5	2	19
Active ...	5	11	53
Meteor ...	5	14	55

B CLASS.			
	H.	M.	S.
Ladybird ...	5	15	55
Dart ...	5	30	28
She ...	5	31	4
Payne ...	5	45	15

The total marks gained in the competition are:—

Erica and Ladybird ...	20 marks each
She ...	8 "
Maid Marian and Active ...	4 "
Meteor and Dart ...	2 "

THE SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

The following is the record in the six-a-side competition to 27th November:—

TEAMS.	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals for.	Against.	Points.
Moberley ...	3	2	0	1	3	0	5
Looker ...	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Davies ...	2	0	0	2	0	0	2
Mackay ...	3	0	2	1	0	2	1
Wood ...	2	0	2	0	0	3	0

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the operations carried on at the Company's mines for the month ending 31st October.

August Shaft, 300 ft. Level.—Our very best attention has been given to the driving of the cross cut here and considering the nature of the ground fair progress has been made, 36 ft. having been driven for the month. This makes the total length from the shaft 66 ft. From the appearance of the ground in the face now I think that even better progress will be made during the coming month.

200 ft. Level.—The cross cut going out to the North Shaft has been extended 21 ft., making its total length 32 ft. from the North drive on the course of the reef. This leaves about 18 ft. to reach the point where the North Shaft should come down. I am hoping to see these two points connected during the coming month. A cross cut has also been driven west to prove if the western chute of ore is still continuing to the north. This cross cut has just reached the foot wall of the reef after passing through about 2 ft. of highly mineralized ore which, although of very low grade, is in my opinion worthy of being further prospected. I intend to drive North on the ore referred to to see if any other chute of payable ground can be found. The stopes over this level are almost exhausted and will be quite so within the next fortnight.

Intermediate Level.—The west crosscut at this level having reached the course of the reef without shewing anything of value, work here has been discontinued. The drive being driven to connect with the north shaft has also been stopped for the time.

North Shaft.—Owing to the very hard nature of the ground here the progress made has been very little indeed, 14 feet only having been sunk during the month. The total depth of this shaft now is 176 feet, leaving 20 feet more to sink to connect with the 200-foot level.

Drivage.—The total drivage for the month is 110 feet 6 inches.

Ore mined, 117 tons.

Milling.—This was carried on during 30 days, crushing 117 tons of ore from the mine for a yield of 29 ozs. 5.0 grs. and 1,921 tons of old

headings and out crop yielding 142 ozs. 5.0 grs. of smelted gold.

Berdan Pans.—These ran full time on old weathered concentrates, treating 45 tons for 20 ozs. of smelted gold.

Cyanide Works.—These works ran 25 days, treating 702 tons of tailings for a yield of 265 ozs. of bullion valued at 15/5½ per ounce.

I intend in future to follow the course of treatment recommended by Mr. Gordon Wilson, of Charters Towers, in the report he furnished some months ago.

General.—All work coming under this head has had the usual attention and everything kept in good order.

Labour.—The supply of this has been fairly plentiful.

Health.—This has been fairly good.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 12 13/16 inches.

EWO COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LIMITED.

The second ordinary meeting of the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., took place on 24th November, in the offices of the Company, Shanghai, Mr. E. F. Alford presiding, and there were present Messrs. J. Prentice, Alex. McLeod, C. Dowdall, C. E. Anton, Wm. Dobie, W. D. Little, A. Cushny, J. M. Young, E. R. Burder, A. K. Craddock, W. C. G. J. Morrison, Tong Kid-son, W. A. Crnickshank, John Paterson, Charles Overbeck, F. Rodewald, F. M. Gratton, James Valentine, and Colin Buchanan.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, it is only so recently that I occupied your attention at some length as regards the Cotton Mill, when we met at the extraordinary meeting, that I think I may limit my remarks on this occasion. The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days, and you will see that they bear out the remarks I made as to the future working of the Mill, when I had the honour of addressing you at the previous meeting. I may therefore, take the items in the balance-sheet seriatim. You will see under assets: property, Tls. 137,506.63. This is represented by the cost of the land, bunding, etc. Then buildings, Tls. 259,857.02; this is the cost of the buildings. It is somewhat over the estimate, I admit; but at the same time if anyone cares to take the trouble to look over them I think he will agree with me that we have got full value for our money. Plant, Tls. 601,626.23; is the cost of plant and machinery. The remarks I have just made will fully apply to the plant and machinery. Water supply, Tls. 15,741.94, is for the reservoir, Waterworks Company's charges, etc. Then there is millstores, Tls. 1,816.40; this is for the necessary oil, packing, and smaller things for keeping the machinery and plant in order. Coal, Tls. 3,865.50; this, I think, needs no explanation. Furniture, Tls. 3,865.50; this is for the furniture in the office, and the bed-room and sitting room of the three European employees at the mill. Cotton, yarn, and waste in stock, Tls. 128,603.97; this relates to cotton in the godown at the date of the closing of the report. Cotton and yarn in process, Tls. 27,435.22; this represents the cotton on the dobbins on the 31st October. Yarn in stock, Tls. 104,691.64; this is practically all sold, but not delivered on account of some stringency in the money market, I believe. Unexpired fire insurance premia, Tls. 5,927.91, and rates and taxes, Tls. 602.42, need no explanation. Preliminary expenses, Tls. 3,957.78; these are such as are incurred by every Company, and I think are not excessive. These we propose to wipe out, as they do not represent any valuable asset. We have Tls. 6,553.27 in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and Tls. 2,730.70 in the hands of the compradore. On the liabilities side there is capital Tls. 1,000,000, Tls. 246,822.74, which is due to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and that amount has been more than balanced by the cotton yarn in stock, which appears on the other side. The profit and loss account shows a balance of Tls. 41,261.64 to the Company. In the profit and loss account we have the interest, Tls. 14,456.07, as I have previously mentioned, which shows a very considerable amount, due, of course, to the fact that our capital was all paid up and has only been used as required. Transfer fees Tls. 464, is for the transfer of shares. The balance

of working account is Tls. 28,696.98; that is, cotton put in and yarn taken out. On the other side of profit and loss account the consulting fees, Tls. 1,500, are not particularly excessive. Auditors, Tls. 250, I need not explain, nor Tls. 605.41 for rates and taxes. This, then, leaves a balance of Tls. 41,261.64. As regards the working account we have not published details, but if any shareholder cares to look at the books they are at his disposal. There is no mystery about this account gentlemen, nothing we wish to conceal, but I do not think it desirable that there should be put into the papers here and elsewhere the particulars of our salaries and other matters. I repeat therefore, that if any shareholder would like to inspect the book, he can see these details for himself. (Hear, hear.) The report, to my mind, is a most satisfactory one, and, so far as I can see, is very hopeful for the future. I trust we shall continue to have reports as satisfactory as this one, or more so. If any shareholder has anything to say or any questions to ask on the report the meeting is now open to him.

In seconding the adoption of the report and accounts proposed by the Chairman Mr. Prentice remarked that there had been no formal opening and inspection of the place. This Company was one of two Companies which held their own ground.

The reports and accounts were passed.

On the proposition of Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Prentice, the dividend of Tls. 3½ per share to all shareholders on the register at date was passed.

Mr. J. D. Clark then proposed, and Mr. Cushny seconded, that Messrs. J. Prentice, A. McLeod, Ta Fong, and Tee Sang be elected to act in conjunction with the head of the firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co. as Consulting Committee.

Mr. Wingrove was re-elected auditor on the proposition of Mr. Gratton, seconded by Mr. Overbeck.

This ended the ordinary meeting.

The following is the report:—

The General Managers now submit a statement of receipts and expenditure to 31st October, 1897, together with the result of the first six months working.

The Mill began working on 10th May with 4,000 spindles, increased now to 23,500 spindles and averaging 14,249 spindles for 24 weeks and 3 days.

The profit and loss account for that period is attached and shows a balance at credit of Tls. 41,261.64. From this, however, must be deducted the sum of Tls. 3,957.78, to eliminate the amount standing at debit of preliminary expenses in the balance sheet. On the other hand, the General Managers have waived their commission which would amount to Tls. 4,228.12 on the amended scale.

It is proposed to pay a dividend at the rate of 7% per annum, equal to Tls. 3.50 per share, which will absorb Tls. 35,000, and to carry forward the balance of Tls. 2,303.86 to new account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. M. Adler retired on leaving for Europe and Mr. A. McLeod has joined the board. In accordance with Article XVII all the members retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

Mr. Wrightson having resigned, Mr. Wingrove was appointed in his place and offers himself for election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,
General Managers

Shanghai, 15th November, 1897.

LIABILITIES.	Tls. cts.
Capital account	1,000,000.00
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	246,822.74
Accounts payable	16,238.64
Profit and loss account	41,261.64

Tals 1,304,323.02

ASSETS.	Tls. cts.
Property	137,506.93
Buildings	259,857.02
Plant	601,626.23
Water supply	15,741.94
Mill stores	1,816.40
Coal	3,865.50
Furniture	1,964.58
Cotton and cotton waste in stock	128,603.97

Cotton and yarn in process	27,435.22
Yarn in stock	104,691.64
Unexpired fire insurance premia	5,927.91
Rates and taxes (applicable to next year) ..	605.42
Sundry debtors	1,438.51
Preliminary expenses	3,957.78
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	6,553.27
Cash in hands of compradors	2,730.70

Tals 1,304,323.02

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Tls. cts.
To Consulting Committee's fees	1,500.00
To auditor's fee	250.00
To rates and taxes	605.41
To balance	41,261.64

Tals 43,617.05

Cr.	Tls. cts.
By interest	14,456.07
By transfer fees	464.00
By balance of working account	28,696.98

Tals 43,617.05

The extraordinary meeting was then convened for the purpose of confirming the resolutions passed at the meeting of 25th ult.

The Chairman said he had very little to add to what he had said before. He wished the resolutions passed as during the cold weather the breaking of ground and other matters could be got along with better. As regarded the financial part; he would take up the list of shareholders and ask them if they wished to take one new for every two old shares held by them, some to be returnable at end of January with Tls. 10 per share. This would not be wanted until after the Chinese new year. They did not want money immediately, but on allotment Tls. 15 per share more would be called for. Mr. Taylor informed him that there are more applications for shares than they were entitled to. He hoped the same confidence would prevail all through. The debentures were not intended to be issued *en bloc* and thus upset the money market, and when wanted would not be until later to pay for expenses.

The Chairman then put the proposition that the four resolutions passed at the last extraordinary meeting and printed in the notice convening the meeting be hereby confirmed.

Mr. Prentice seconded and the resolutions were passed unanimously.

This closed the proceedings.

THE HAK SUGAR CULTIVATION CO., LIMITED.

The twelfth annual general meeting of this Company was held at Shanghai on the 24th November. Mr. W. V. Drummond (Chairman) presided, and there were present: Messrs. W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael (Directors), C. J. Dudgeon (Secretary), D. W. Crawford, W. B. Jamieson, J. M. Young, E. Hey, A. Thurburn, A. Cushny, and H. Sylva, representing in all 655 shares.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said—With your permission I presume we may follow the usual course of taking the report that has been circulated as having been read. You may remember that in the last report we estimated that the season would close on the 30th of September. Owing, however, to the satisfactory working of the machinery we were able to close the season on the 31st August; that made a very short season therefore of only eight months. With regard to the result of that I think you will be satisfied that under all the circumstances it has been a decidedly satisfactory one, the working account showing a profit of upwards of Tls. 20,000. Under the new management considerable economies have been effected in the management of the estate, besides a general smoothness in the working in all respects. You may, perhaps, notice that there has been no writing off for depreciation, but I would ask your attention to the fact that during the past two years Tls. 28,000 have been charged in the working account for repairs and renewals and I think that these may fairly be considered as a set-off against the absence of any writing-off for depreciation in those years. With regard to the repairs, and additions mentioned in the reports,

these repairs and additions to the factory have been completed, and the manager expresses his complete satisfaction with the way in which the work has been done, and in this connection he speaks very highly of the Estate's engineer. The plant itself has not only been largely increased or improved both in power and as regards economy of working but the re-arrangement of the machinery gives far more satisfaction. The season has opened very favourably. The crop is a large one, and there is every reason to believe that it will prove to be a heavy one, but this, of course, depends to a very considerable extent upon circumstances which are always, more or less, beyond the control of the actual management. The work on the new crop began last month, and the production of sugar in October gave the highest average yield per *orlong* that has ever been known in the history of the Company. The canes now being cut also promise to give a very heavy yield. The whole of the new crop has been sold at satisfactory prices. As to the fresh water supply which you see referred to in the report, this work is one, as you well know, of extreme importance to the Company's welfare. It has been successfully prosecuted during the past year, and, as you see, the canal has been completed as far as the boundary of the estate, and it is now in course of being carried to the factory and the coolie lines. This will greatly benefit the coolies and also supply the clear water that is so much needed for the satisfactory working of the boilers and machinery. Besides this we hope that ultimately the supply of water will be developed into a general system of irrigation of the whole property, which, as you know, will be a work of inestimable value. Those are the only points in reference to which I can see any remarks to make with advantage, and, therefore, if you have no special questions to ask I will proceed to put the first resolution:—"That the report and accounts, as presented, be passed."

Mr. W. D. Little seconded, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Mr. D. W. Crawford, and seconded by Mr. A. Thurburn, Mr. J. H. McMichael was re-elected a director; and upon the proposition of Mr. J. M. Young seconded by Mr. E. Hey, Mr. G. R. Wingrove was re-elected auditor, his remuneration being fixed at Tls. 200 per annum.

The Chairman proposed, and Mr. McMichael seconded:—"That the next annual general meeting of the Company be held in the month of November, 1898."

The adoption of this resolution concluded the proceedings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE GOVERNMENT GROUND ON THE PRAYA RECLAMATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank having enclosed and turfed the piece of Reclamation fronting the Bank, may I, through your columns, suggest to the Government that it would be a fitting opportunity to remove the collection of hovels and workshops opposite the City Hall and imitate the excellent example of the Bank by enclosing and turfing in a similar manner a corresponding strip of ground on the other side of the road.

The ground could no doubt be spared and there would still be ample room for the new Government buildings; it would give space for future extension and it would considerably improve the surroundings of Her Majesty's Statue. But if done at all it should be done at once.—Yours truly,

IMPROVEMENT.

Hongkong, 27th November, 1897.

At Shanghai on the 19th November, a fire broke out at about 1.30 a.m. among some loose cotton in the mixing room at the Laou-kung-mow Cotton Mill, Yangtzepoo Road. The fire was extinguished by the automatic sprinklers with which the premises are fitted, aided by the hose belonging to the mill. The damage done is estimated at between Tls. 8,000 and Tls. 9,000, principally caused by water.

GERMANY AND CHINA.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES.

The Viceroy of the two Kwang has received a telegram from Peking to the effect that as the Germans have occupied Kiaochau Bay he is to hold a Council with the Governor, the Tartar General, the Commander-in-chief of the land forces, and the Admiral of the Southern Squadron to see what steps should be taken to strengthen the forts on the river and to be prepared for any emergencies that may arise.

GERMANY'S DEMANDS.

Peking, 21st November.

The demands preferred by Germany against China consist of six items, including the payment of a sum of 600,000 taels for the relief of the families of the murdered missionaries, compensation for the expenditure incurred by despatching men-of-war to Kiaochau, degradation of the local officials, and the arrest and heavy punishment of those concerned in the outrage.

The Chinese Government, on the other hand, has demanded the evacuation of Kiaochau Bay by the German war-ships before entering upon negotiations in respect to the German demands.

Tokyo, 22nd November.

A telegram has been received in Tokyo to the effect that the German Minister in Peking is making preparations to withdraw his Legation, acting under instructions from the Berlin Government. No news to this effect, however, has yet reached the Foreign Office.

Tokyo, 22nd November.

The Japanese Government will decide on what attitude to take in view of the German occupation of Kiaochau Bay, after the receipt of detailed reports from the Japanese Minister to China and the Japanese Minister to Germany.—*Kobe Chronicle* translations.

THE GERMANS AT KIAOCHAU BAY.

A Peking telegram received on Saturday, 20th November, states that in answer to the report of Governor Li Ping-heng of Shantung, about the seizure of the Tsingtao forts in Kiaochau Bay by the German fleet, the Tsung-li Yamén simply instructed that Governor "to wait and see what the Germans intended to do next." He was also directed to leave the management of the whole affair to the Central Government, but in the meanwhile, the perpetrators of the outrage at Yenchau were to be speedily brought to book without any further delay on pain of degradation and loss of office. There is great excitement in official circles in Peking owing to the Kiaochau incident, and up to date (Saturday 20th) there have already been three private meetings between some members of the Tsungli Yamén and officials of a certain Legation.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The German men-of-war's men are making themselves very comfortable for the winter at Kiaochau Bay, on the Island of Tsintau. In addition to the German men-of-war those of several other nations have arrived, or are to arrive shortly. The incident has thus caused some little alteration in the winter naval station arrangements. On Saturday, 20th November, an armed party of 40 blue-jackets was landed and was marched to Kiaochau town, where they inspected the Chinese telegraph office. The officers made copious notes and, with the men, stayed overnight, returning to Tsintau yesterday. (21st).—*Mercury*.

Did they (the Germans) think someone else might forestall them at Kiaochau? The Berlin Government had, we know, long before made up its mind to exact some payment in the shape of territorial concessions from China for the part which Germany had played in conjunction with her new continental allies in driving Japan off the prostrate carcass of the helpless giant in '95. She had applied for a harbour and some islands at Tongshu north of Foochow, and had been refused by China, mainly because the British objected to Germany acquiring a hold on the coast so close to Hongkong, while the Japanese would have strenuously resented the acquisition of a naval station in such close proximity to Formosa. Then came the mysterious mission of Baron von Heyking, the German Minister, up the Yangtse and the exence for fresh demands furnished by the fortunate assault upon the captain and officers of the German cruiser and the insult to the flag at Wuchang. Even while discussion in connection with that incident was

proceeding, the Minister remaining at Wuchang, until he could exact acceptable terms, down came the news of the murder of the two German Catholic missionaries in Shantung. Bishop Anser, the head of the Mission, was fortunately in Berlin at the time, and as he is known to be a close personal friend of the Kaiser, we may be sure the occasion was made the most of to explain to that erratic but very explosive monarch, the precise position of affairs in China and the ease with which Germany might, by seizing such a fine opportunity, obtain a hold upon China from which neither herself, China, nor any jealous Power could eject her without facing a great war. She took it at the right time and administered a lesson in practical statesmanship and diplomatic opportunism which other Powers will do well to take to heart. It is amusing to read the comments of the Chinese papers upon this incident. The *Shenpao*, which represents most closely the general tone of Chinese official opinion—if the hazy mental fog which surrounds the Yamen of Peking can be called opinion,—say that a more peaceful means of settling the massacre might have been followed. No doubt our Chinese friends have lingering and pleasant memories of the scores of cases on which mere British missionaries and travellers, men, women and even children, have been massacred without any serious complications and paid for with a few thousand taels, all of which have been exacted from foreigners by the specious medium of "famine" funds and other pious "squeezes." But the German Government has evidently profited by the fooling of the British authorities in China. The *Shenpao* says that the gravity of the Shantung massacre was realized by China. No doubt the Chinese mandarins were duly prepared to snivel and wring their hands over the iniquities of the "ignorant unruly mob," but their feelings have been spared this harrowing experience by the kindness of the German Admiral in relieving them of all responsibility. The *Shenpao* proceeds to dilate upon the friendly relations that prevail elsewhere between Germany and China, and points out the fact that German military instructors are installed in numerous Chinese forts, which we take as a hint that China may try to square accounts by getting rid of these ungrateful employees. In conclusion it also hints that the action of Germany is contrary to the wishes of Russia and that the other European Powers, the writer asserts, are anxious to prevent the further expansion of Russian influence. Is China a party to this desire? Was the Kiaochau business rehearsed in Peking by Li Hung-chang? Is Russia likely to object, as the *Shenpao* hints, to the German coup? This we hardly take to be the case, considering the action of the German Admiral in communicating his intentions to his brother admirals before he took the step, which is the signal for the general game of carving up China, which, we believe, is drawing very near.—*China Gazette*.

Shanghai, 25th November.

The German steamer *Loongmoon* (Captain Schulz) arrived here to-day from Kiaochau to which place she has just carried despatches and stores to the German fleet and occupying forces. She left the place on Tuesday afternoon when everything was perfectly quiet, many of the Chinese braves being industriously occupied in working about the forts, repairing old, or erecting new buildings for their German masters. The greatest harmony prevailed between the Germans and Chinese and the erstwhile Chinese General, with his pigtail cut off, was peacefully living in Chihyang "castle" commonly called Kiaochau fort, under the protection of the new occupants of the place.

The German officers with small reconnoitering parties have made several flying expeditions inland, as far as twenty li from the coast, and were everywhere well received by the people, whom they told not to be alarmed so long as they conducted themselves amicably towards the visitors.

No news of any protest by the Foreign Ministers at Peking had been received at Kiaochau, but preparations to resist any attempt to dislodge them by the Chinese had been made by the German forces ashore by mounting guns and cutting trenches—commanding the approaches to the forts.

The guns of the four German warships also were trained to sweep the country in the rear of the forts, but there was no anticipation whatever that the Chinese mandarins and troops would make any such rash attempt.

A telegram was received here from Kiaochau this afternoon showing that everything was quiet, thus practically contradicting the statement made in another local paper that the Germans had cut the wires. On the contrary they are making very good use of the Chinese telegraph service and the Chinese Administration is interposing no delay or difficulty in the transmission of German telegrams between Kiaochau and Peking and Kiaochau and Shanghai. A German naval officer came down here by the *Loongmoon* to make certain arrangements in connection with the permanent occupation of the place. It has not yet been formally declared annexed, but we expect to hear very shortly of a declaration to that effect.

We further understand that the action of Admiral Tirpitz was taken in obedience to the direct orders of the Kaiser, conveyed through Baron von Heyking, the German Minister, who has thus been enabled to lift German prestige in China to a point which fairly leaves all his rivals in the rear. When are the British going to follow the lead of their German cousin? They surely have many heavy scores to settle in China. The Bennett case, from an international point of view, and considering that it touches the sacred British breeches pocket, and not lives of mere British subjects, is certainly quite as strong as the German case in Shantung.—*China Gazette*.

A FINANCIAL TYPHOON.

Shanghai, 24th November.

It is a matter of common knowledge that Shanghai is going through what is little short of a financial crisis by reason of the extraordinary stringency of the money market, but few people outside those most intimately concerned are aware of the almost unprecedented danger of a ruinous collapse, covering every phase of life, which exists. The native rate of interest for short loans has jumped up to an extraordinary figure—indeed it is little short of war rates—and the most curious feature about the business is that it is not because of any of the usual causes which operate to damage credit, elevate interest, and engender that ordinary premium, or impair financial confidence which are generally coupled with periods in which national or commercial credit is shaken by reason of unusual national disasters. The ordinary bugbear of silver using countries is the sole cause of the prevailing distress and disturbance—exchange. But, we venture to say, few people would have forecasted five years ago that the effects which we are now enduring the burden of could have arisen from the mere depreciation of silver. Within the past couple of weeks the native rate of interest has risen from 7.5 mace to Tl. 1 and even Tl. 1.50 per mille per diem for short loans. The foreign and Chinese banks have been deuded of almost all their silver; in fact, there is not to-day more than between eight to nine lakhs in sycee in all the banks in Shanghai, or about one-fifth of what there should be to carry on the immense business of the port at this season of the year. The reason for this is to be found in the extraordinarily large remittances of silver from Shanghai to the northern ports, Chefoo, Tientsin, but more especially to Newchwang, where the export merchants who usually take imports—piece-goods, yarns, metals, etc.—against their exports, have been steadfastly holding back from purchasing all foreign products or manufactures from Shanghai, in consequence of the abnormal and ruinous rate of exchange. At the same time they have been availing themselves of the splendid profits derived from exporting silver grown products to gold standard countries, while refusing to rise to the increased prices of importers, necessitated by the enhanced silver price of gold or gold produced articles. Consequently the export side of the scales weight down the imports, and, while we have enormous demands for silver from Shanghai to settle for exports, we have no calls for imports to square accounts or equalize the pressure. The force of this undue incidence

may be estimated from the fact that over four millions of taels in sycee have been remitted to Newchwang alone to meet the demands of exports within the past few weeks. At the present moment so bare are the Shanghai bank treasuries of silver—dollars, of course, do not very largely enter into the settlement of these operations,—that if there were a sudden demand for silver for any considerable quantity of tael notes, we doubt very much that the call could be met, without a breaking strain. This seems to us a parlous state of affairs in a great commercial community like Shanghai, but seeing that the fault lies with the foreign merchants and the native banks we do not see very well how a remedy can be suggested by the foreign banks. On Monday the Chamber of Commerce and some of the leading foreign merchants met to discuss the situation and see if any practical means could be devised for relieving the present stringency, but without effect. Failing to even suggest the doing of anything practical these gentlemen moved the foreign banks in turn to hold conferences to see if they could not suggest some steps to produce the desired effect. The bank managers met yesterday and fully discussed the situation which was admitted to be critical but seeing that Chinese bankers and the export merchants were deriving the benefit from the situation they have brought about, the European and the Japanese banks decided that they could do nothing to relieve the tightness of money. The only hope at the moment seems to be that an early winter, which seems imminent, will prevent the exportation of any more silver to the northern ports, but in the meanwhile enormous stocks of all kinds of imports, which usually go north at this season of the year, are accumulating in the local godowns and unless something unforeseen at the present moment occurs to relieve the painful pressure, the coming China New Year is likely to see a period of extreme distress and great disaster amongst both native and foreign merchants, and the difficulty of the latter taking up their contracts for import cargo, at present great, will be immeasurably increased. The depression at present hanging over Shanghai seems likely to develop into a financial typhoon which may exercise most devastating effects far and near.—*China Gazette.*

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held at the offices of the Chamber, No. 1, Kiukiang Road, on Monday, the 15th of November, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. E. F. Alford (in the chair), C. J. Dudgeon, J. C. Bois, F. W. Koch, W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael, E. Shellim, A. Worth, and the Secretary.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Fire Insurance Rates.—A letter from Messrs. Dyce & Co., agents for the Sin Chong Filature Co., was laid before the meeting, calling the attention of the Chamber to a dispute that firm was engaged in with the Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai as to the rate for insurance charged on the Filature, and the Secretary was directed to reply that if appealed to by both parties to the dispute, the Chamber was open to arbitrate in the case. The correspondence was ordered for publication.

Typhoon Signals at Woosung.—A reply having been received from the Commissioner of Customs to the letter of the 5th of October sent by the Chamber on this subject, both were ordered for publication.

Delay in Transmission of Telegrams by the Chinese Line.—The attention of the Committee was called to the great delay that exists in transmission of messages by the Chinese Telegraph line, which made "urgent" messages a necessity but by no means a remedy, and the Secretary was directed to address the Manager of the Chinese Telegraphs at Shanghai calling his attention to the complaints made.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES.

Shanghai, 3rd November, 1897.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed we beg to hand you a copy of some correspondence which has recently passed between us and the Committee of the Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai, as we

think it raises questions which should be brought to the notice of your Committee.

Apart from the unfairness with which we have been treated, and the fact that such action upon the part of the Committee of the Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai must remove for the future all confidence in the general fairness of their rates, the question which naturally rises to our mind is why should the trade of Soochow be fostered to the detriment of the trade of Shanghai? and this question is one which, we think, comes within the province of your Committee.

The facts briefly are these:—The Filature at Jessfield, now called the Sin Chong Filature, was established in 1894 by Chinese, and was rated for fire insurance at 1 per cent. net, as it was under Chinese management, and was outside the settlement of Shanghai. In 1895 we took over the management, and though we made several attempts to get the rate reduced, it was not till July 1896 (after we had paid, at 1 per cent. net, nearly all the premia coming due that year) that a reduction to 1 per cent. *minus* 10 per cent. was granted to us. As the bulk of our insurances are taken out in June the reduction practically only came in force this year.

A few weeks ago we learnt that a member of the Committee of the Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai has been insuring a Filature at Soochow for some time past at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. net, though he, as part of the Committee, was, during the same time, refusing to grant us, at Jessfield, a better rate than 1 per cent. *minus* 10 per cent.

This appears to us as bearing unfavourably on the trade of Shanghai, and we would thank you to bring the matter to the notice of your Committee.—We are, dear sir, yours faithfully,

DYCE & CO.

To the Chairman of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 15th November, 1897.

Dear Sir,—In further reply to your letter of 3rd instant, which has had the consideration of the Committee, I am directed to say that having only your side of the dispute before them they obviously can express no opinion on its merits. This Chamber has no judiciary powers, though the sub-Committee on Arbitration is always open to reference if appealed to by both disputants.—Yours faithfully,

DRUMMOND HAY, Secretary.

TYPHOON SIGNALS AT WOOSUNG.

Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce,
5th October, 1897.

Sir,—The attention of the Committee of this Chamber has been called to the fact that it would be a great convenience to masters of steamers compelled to anchor at Woosung, if the typhoon signals displayed at Shanghai were also exhibited at the Harbour Master's station at Woosung, as at present it is impossible for them to fully participate in the benefit of the information given from Sicawei. Any assistance which you may be able to render in this direction will, I am sure, be very much appreciated by the mercantile marine of this port.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

E. F. ALFORD,
Chairman.

L. Rocher, Esq., Commissioner of Customs,
Shanghai.

Custom House,
Shanghai, 27th October, 1897.

Sir,—I beg to own receipt of your letter No. 1147 of the 5th instant, stating that it would be a great convenience to masters of steamers compelled to anchor at Woosung if the typhoon signals displayed at Shanghai were also exhibited at Woosung, and that any assistance this office could render in this direction would be much appreciated by the mercantile marine of this port.

While in full accord with your Committee as to advantage of such meteorological signals at Woosung, I must point out that the matter is one that will necessitate an increased staff and the erection of an additional flag-staff at Woosung, involving an initial outlay of over Tls. 2,000 and an annual expenditure of about Tls. 600.

As, however, the benefits to be derived by the shipping are real and in keeping with the progress of meteorology, and as, further, H.E. Sheng, Director-General of the Telegraph Administration, has generously agreed to transmit such weather telegrams to Woosung free of charge, I am now referring the question to Peking for the consideration and approval of the Inspector-General of Customs, feeling sure of his sanction if official funds are available for this purpose.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

L. ROCHER,
Commissioner of Customs.

To E. F. Alford, Esq., Chairman of the
Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

MR. MCLEAVY BROWN'S POSITION IN KOREA.

Seoul, 13th November.

Mr. Brown, the Financial Adviser and Collector-General of Customs of Korea, was dismissed yesterday by a Royal Edict.

Toyko, 14th November.

A Seoul dispatch of the 12th inst. announces that Mr. Brown has again returned the notice of dismissal served upon him. Mr. Jordan, the British Consul-General, is awaiting the instructions of his Government, maintaining, however, a strong attitude. Mr. Cho, the Korean Foreign Minister, is utterly dismayed and unable to decide anything.

In consequence of the strong pressure brought to bear by Mr. Speyer, the Korean Government induced the Emperor of Korea last night to issue a Royal Edict dismissing Mr. Brown.—*Kobe Chronicle.*

REVISION OF THE SHANGHAI LAND REGULATIONS.

The following correspondence is published with the last minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council:—

Shanghai, 3rd October, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that your letter of July 7th last relating to the revision of the Shanghai Land Regulations was, in due time, considered by the Consular Body and hereafter as requested forwarded to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Peking for further consideration.

I am now in receipt of the reply sent me by the present Doyen of the Diplomatic Body, Sir Claude Macdonald, of which I beg herewith to enclose copy for the information of the Municipal Council.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

O. STUEBEL,
Consul-General for Germany
and Senior Consul.

A. R. Burkill, Esq., Chairman Municipal Council.

(Enclosure.)

Peking, 21st September, 1897.

SIR,—I am desired by my colleagues of the Diplomatic Body in Peking to acknowledge your letter of July 23rd, 1897, in which you ask on behalf of the Municipal Council of Shanghai "whether if an amended code of the Shanghai Land Regulations were framed and forwarded to Peking it might be expected to receive the support of the Diplomatic Body."

In reply I am requested to state that if such an amended code is sent here my colleagues will take the matter up. They cannot, of course, promise their support until they have seen and considered the amended code.

With regard to the request of the Municipal Council that the Tsungli Yamen should be asked now to give formal recognition to the present code of Regulations, I am desired by my colleagues to say that these Regulations having been in force for so many years their validity is unquestioned. There is, therefore, no necessity to approach the Tsungli Yamen on the subject.

I avail myself of this opportunity, sir, to renew to you the assurance of my high consideration.

(Signed) CLAUDE MACDONALD.
Dr. O. Stuebel, Consul-General for Germany and Senior-Consul, Shanghai.

AN EXHORTATION TO TEA PLANTERS.

The following despatch, of which we (*N. C. Daily News*) give a translation, has been received by His Honour Ts'ai Taotai from H.E. Viceroy Liu, of the Liangkang provinces:—

TO THE TAOTAI OF THE SOO-SUNG T'AI INTENDANCY, AT SHANGHAI.

I have to inform you that I am in receipt of a despatch dated the 12th day of the 9th moon (7th October) from Their Excellencies the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamèn, embodying a despatch of the 24th day of the 8th moon (20th September) from H.E. Knobel, Minister-Resident of the Netherlands at Peking, to the said Yamèn to the effect that H.E. had received a communication from the Tea Importers of Amsterdam, the contents of which ran as follows:—

"We regret to find that the samples of tea prepared by the new methods are not very good, but that the flavour of those made by the old methods is still vastly superior to the tea made in other countries. If therefore China tea be prepared after the new methods the leaf will be similar to that prepared elsewhere, while it will lose entirely the original delicacy of flavour peculiar to its place of production. Although the tea-planters of Java, Assam, and Ceylon expend much skill and labour on their products it must be confessed that they do not come up to the teas of China. As matters now stand people in Europe anxious to purchase high quality Chinese teas are unable to do so, and they are compelled to think that tea merchants in China are ignorant of the fact that the people of Europe and other places prefer to buy good Chinese teas to others. The tea made by the new methods in China is really a poor edition of the Indian tea, and therefore vastly inferior to that prepared by the old methods; whilst the prices demanded in England and the Netherlands for high quality [China] tea are three times greater than those asked for teas produced by the new methods. Moreover, tea prepared by the new methods is exported to foreign markets whilst British India teas are also exported to the same places for sale, and the two teas are compelled to compete for buyers. But then there are those [amongst tea consumers] who prefer to drink Chinese tea and yet others who like to drink British India tea. Upon a comparison of the respective merits of the two, however, it has been found that no tea is superior to the Chinese tea in flavour and delicacy of taste. Furthermore, the merchants of Russia, England, the Netherlands and other countries are of the same opinion and have requested the writers of this communication to inform the tea exporters of all China of the actual state of affairs as above explained."

"I, the Minister-Resident, have had the question of the preparation of Chinese teas in my mind for a long time, and after many years' investigation have also arrived at a similar decision as that of the tea importers of Amsterdam and elsewhere, and I have also reason to believe that Your Excellencies will be pleased to learn the opinions above presented."

In commenting on the above Their Excellencies of the Tsungli Yamèn state that "Tea being one of the chief staples of export to foreign countries is a proof that the consumers there prefer the fine flavour of Chinese teas [to others]. The only matter for regret is that Chinese tea planters have gradually fallen off from the true, old methods, thereby producing teas of inferior qualities, in consequence of which India and other teas have crept into the markets and taken away the profits which used to go to the Chinese tea planters and merchants. In this way not only has the Imperial exchequer suffered but the losses to the tea trade have been most heavy and disastrous. Now according to the despatch quoted above of H.E. Knobel, the Minister-Resident of the Netherlands, it appears that even although Chinese teas have fallen so completely from their former high qualities there are yet ways and means whereby the tea trade of China may be restored to its pristine flourishing state, and the Yamèn therefore considers it its duty to inform Your Excellency of the same and requests that Your Excellency will be good enough to send instructions to the local authorities of the various dependencies under you, to proclaim to all the inhabitants of the tea planting districts that henceforth, no matter

whether their teas are being prepared by the old methods or by the new, they should always keep in mind the importance of being careful in their work and aim at producing high quality teas in order to command the market. If due care be exercised in the preparation of the leaf there need be no fear of Chinese tea losing its ground in the foreign markets. The Ministers of the Tsungli Yamèn would also request Your Excellency to keep a watch over this important question, and communicate in the future with the Yamèn as to what Your Excellency has done in the matter, and also concerning the state of the tea districts."

With reference to the above despatch of the Tsungli Yamèn it is very evident that the loss of the tea trade to China has been due to various causes, one of which is that foreign-made teas have been flooding the foreign markets to the exclusion of the Chinese teas. Chinese tea merchants possessing only small capital have been guilty of unlawful methods in the preparation of their teas, and have naturally lost heavily therefrom. They have, in fact, been careless while picking the leaf, and have been guilty of introducing spurious leaves into their stocks, in consequence of which foreign buyers have caused trouble, returned the teas, cut down the prices, and by various and sundry sharp methods rejected the teas they had agreed to buy. Chinese merchants have, therefore, suffered most seriously from all this, and the loss of capital has been enormous. For these reasons the tea trade of this country has gradually fallen off and practically been almost destroyed. I have on former occasions repeatedly exhorted the tea planters in my jurisdiction to introduce reforms into their methods of preparation, etc., for, if carefully attended to, the flavour of China teas is without doubt superior to those made in foreign countries, and foreigners, in consequence, are all anxious to drink Chinese tea. If, therefore, the tea planters of China will follow good advice and pick their leaves at the proper times, and roast them with care and skill so that the quality turned out is uniform and up to the highest mark, and, moreover, if strict honesty be exercised in their dealings with foreign buyers, there is no question of doubt but that they will be able to turn the tide of the tea trade to its original source. I am all the more confirmed in this belief after perusing the despatch of H.E. Knobel, the Minister-Resident of the Netherlands.

I would, therefore, earnestly exhort all my people to seek reform in the trade and mutually aid each other in producing carefully prepared high quality teas, and thereby create anew a wide demand for the article, which will be followed by general prosperity to all. This despatch is to be distributed to the various local authorities of the tea districts, who are commanded to make the same known to all our people. Let no one be guilty of disobeying my exhortations.

LIU, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF TRADE OF THE NANYANG AND VICEROY OF THE LIANG-KIANG PROVINCES.

THE ROUND-THE-WORLD CYCLISTS.

Mr. John Foster Fraser, who is cycling round the world, arrived in Shashi from Ichang on the evening of the 16th of November. Messrs. Lowe and Lunn, Mr. Fraser's companions, took steamer direct from Ichang to Hankow, so that Mr. Fraser is crossing this anti-foreign part of Hupeh alone. Travelling from Ichang he had an exceedingly rough time. During the three days he was crossing overland it rained in torrents and one day he carried his bicycle through slush and paddy fields for ten miles. The Chinese in some of the villages were aggressive and he was pelted with mud. Mr. Fraser is the guest of Mr. Neumann, the Commissioner of Customs, and during his stay in Shashi is making several trips with the British Consul, Mr. Clennell. Mr. Fraser's intention is to go to Hankow, not by following the banks of the Yangtze, but striking, in a bee-line, right across Hupeh. This is a route that no European has yet traversed and if Mr. Fraser gets across safely he will have accomplished a feat. He is in the best of health. —*N. C. Daily News*.

THE BELGIAN RAILWAY LOAN.

We learn from reliable Chinese sources that negotiations have been commenced afresh with the Belgian Syndicate for the £4,000,000 Railway Loan. Li Hung-chang and Sheng Taotai are conducting the negotiations for the Chinese. We believe the chief alteration in the former conditions is that the money is to be advanced, not in one or two lumps, but in small instalments as required. Sheng Taotai has assented to this proposition, and it is believed that Li Hung-chang will also approve of it. It is also stipulated by the Belgians that an Imperial Decree is to be issued approving the loan, and if the other conditions are settled satisfactorily it is anticipated there will be no serious difficulty about the Imperial Edict. —*China Gazette*.

THE JAPANESE CONCESSION AT TIENTSIN.

A telegram dated at Tientsin 8 a.m., the 13th instant, appears in the *Jiji Shimpō*. It says that the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires had just set out on his return journey to Peking, having brought to a satisfactory conclusion his negotiations with the Viceroy for an appropriation of land to form a Japanese settlement, as stipulated by the Shimonoseki Treaty. The Viceroy seems to have acceded to the Chargé's proposals. According to the telegram, the area of the allotted space is 400,000 *tsubo*, or some 330 acres, but it appears to us that there must be some mistake about this figure. We do not think that any such space is available at Tientsin. —*Japan Mail*.

A NEW RAILWAY.

A Shaohsing, Chékiang, despatch of the 18th instant states that on the 14th November, Fu, the prefect of that city, issued a proclamation informing the people of the prefecture that Governor Liao had given power to two syndicates to collect subscriptions for the building of a railway between Ningpo and the first named city. The proclamation further explains to the people that the proposed railway will be entirely built with native capital and that this is "not a case of encroachment and seizure of land, and giving special advantages to foreigners; nor will any foreign shareholders in the company be permitted. The only foreign element in the affair will be the employment of a Western Engineer to survey the country." The proclamation winds up with calling upon the people to treat the Surveyor of the proposed Railway properly. —*N. C. Daily News*.

THREATENED RIOT AT WUHU.

A despatch received from Wuhu by the *Hu-pao* reports that the success of the recently erected rice-cleaning mill at that port has aroused the bitter jealousy of the shops which employ manual labour. Interested parties have, therefore, been stirring up the labourers lately, and now the streets of Wuhu are full of ominous rumours of a great rising that will take place against the new mill at the close of the present Chinese year, when all the labourers shall have been paid off for the year. As a matter of fact the discontented shopmen make no secret of their intention to tear down the new rice-cleaning mill in January next, and as there are no less than 30,000 labourers employed by the manual rice-cleaning mills in Wuhu, the projected riot is likely to be on a pretty large scale, unless the local authorities take measures beforehand to prevent a rising. It is also said that the cry of the mob will be against foreign machinery in particular and foreigners generally. —*N. C. Daily News*.

MAT SALLEH AGAIN.

A RAID ON AMBONG.—HOUSES BURNT. We hear through a private source that the incorrigible outlaw Mat Salleh has made a descent from the interior on the village at Ambong, in Keppel Province, not far, about thirty miles along the coast to the north-east, from Gaya, the scene of his previous exploit. The houses of the village have been burnt, and Mat Salleh and his men appear to have fled back again immediately after this raid. It is believed that there are two English officers there who are safe, but in the unpleasant predicament of being without food, clothes, and ammunition.

We have no idea who these can be, unless they be a couple of officers of the Hongkong garrison. The last officers of the Rifle Brigade to visit that coast in search of sport were Lts. Boden and Blewitt, but these gentlemen returned to Singapore some time ago. The Resident of Labuan immediately on hearing the news of Mat Salleh's raid on Ambong, started for that place with police assistance.—*Singapore Free Press.*

THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY AT FOOCHOW AND CONSUL FRANDON.

The following address has been presented to M. Frandon by the Portuguese community at Foochow:—

Foochow, 13th November, 1897.
To Ernest Frandon, Esquire, Consul for France,
Consul for Portugal, Foochow.

Sir,—Having come to our knowledge that a malevolent individual under the pseudonym W.H.K. has circulated a pamphlet "Right versus Might" containing entirely false and malicious accusations against you regarding your conduct as consul for Portugal.

We, the undersigned, members of the Portuguese community at this port, address you this to express to you our sincere regret. Availing ourselves of the opportunity, we beg to testify our high appreciation and esteem towards you, and to convey to you, Sir, our most hearty thanks for the many invaluable services which you have gratuitously rendered to us while protecting our interests with utmost zeal.

For the courteous manner you have accorded to each and every one of us, for the many kindnesses and friendly considerations that several of our nationals have received at your hands, you have earned our best respect and gratitude.

We shall always watch with pleasure your well merited promotion to a higher rank in the administration of your Government and sincerely trust that for the many services you have rendered to us and our compatriots, you will also receive due recognition and acknowledgement from the Government of His Most Faithful Majesty.

Wishing you all prosperity and long life we remain, sir, your most obedient servants,

(Signed) CLODOALDO MARIA D'ALMEIDA,
EPIGEMIO FRANCISCO D'ALMEIDA,
ANTONIO NOGUEIRA MENDES
MODESTO MARIA OZORIO,
IGNACIO PIRES PEREIRA,
ABILIO ALBERTO DO ROZARIO.

FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tamsui, 20th November.

The tea season in Formosa has closed. The total production runs about 450,000 half-chests, which is about the same as last year. The duty question in America disturbed the market considerably and it is reported that there have been some heavy losses in consequence. Japanese as yet have made no serious attempt to enter the tea business either as planters, packers, or exporters, with the single exception of one company which packed some 12,000 half-chests and exported via Kelung and Japan some 800 half-chests to America. The Japanese Government rendered great assistance in officially endorsing a movement made by the merchants to prevent the export of impure teas. It has been the custom of an occasional unscrupulous Chinese dealer to import inferior Amoy teas, mix them with Formosas, and then export the product as pure Formosa oolong, also to add extraneous matter to Formosas. But the Government has now invested a committee consisting of three foreign merchants and four Chinese merchants with the authority to confiscate and burn all such teas found on the market, while the salesman of the same will be fined a sum double the amount he has named as the value of the teas. Several seizures of spurious teas were made during the season and it is quite reasonable to believe that there will be but few attempts made to dispose of false goods on this market during the coming season.

Previous to the arrival of the Japanese, the Chinese mandarins at Taipei commenced the construction of a wooden steamer at Twatutia

with the idea of allaying the suspicions of the Chinese authorities at Peking, who were unable to understand why it was that the Formosan returns were debited a large amount year after year, for a ship-building yard which built no ships. Without the assistance of foreigners the hull was built, and according to popular report the mandarins, who desired to make amends for the long non-productiveness of their establishment, were especially anxious to produce a swift craft and ordered that she be fitted with twin screws, with the idea that if one screw would drive the ship at a certain speed, two screws would double it and convert their vessel into a regular scorcher. Foreign engineers were then invited to inspect the craft and bid for placing the machinery. Two gentlemen from rival establishments in Hongkong and Shanghai accordingly visited the island and after examining the hull put in their estimates, in which it appeared that they could promise no more than five knots speed. This created considerable consternation among the mandarins, who had evidently reported that their offspring would "make walk" at a very rapid gait. Extravagant offers, pleadings, prayers were alike of no avail. The engineers were agreed that five knots was the maximum speed to be obtained and the Chinese being dissatisfied, they accordingly returned without having obtained the order. Work, however, was continued on the craft by the Chinese until stopped by the arrival of the Japanese. A few weeks ago the vessel was put up at auction and sold for some 3,500 yen. It has been estimated that at least 30,000 yen had been expended on the hull by the Chinese builder. The vessel was launched a few days ago and is to be taken to Hongkong in a few weeks.

The Japanese officials are at present in a query as to the advisability of applying the new treaties to Formosa. The inhabitants of the island consist of Chinese and aborigines with a few thousand Japanese and a handful of foreigners. The direct application of the code compiled for civilized nations would work great injury to the Chinese here and no doubt result in continual disorders. In commercial affairs, transfers of land, and other civil matters, it is absolutely necessary that the former customs of the Chinese be taken in consideration and that the new order of things be not enforced upon them before they are able to understand them. It might be well that a special code suited to the conditions of the island be framed, but with less than three years' experience the Japanese are not yet sufficiently familiar with the condition of the Chinese to know just what is required. A prominent official informs me that it is very evident that the time has not yet arrived when the inhabitants can to their own advantage be placed under the laws and regulations which the new treaties will place in force in Japan, and it is not unlikely that the Powers will be asked to take into consideration the present condition of affairs and enter into a supplementary treaty applying to Formosa. This is to be but a temporary agreement, as I understand it, in which foreigners will be granted the same rights and privileges as are contained in the new treaties, but that so far as the native subjects and Japanese are concerned the old conditions will prevail.

The opposition to Lieut. General Baron Nogi as Governor-General appears to have subsided. By foreigners who admire his many excellent qualities his retirement from office would be looked upon as a calamity to the island. The frequent exchange of officials and shifts of policy to which the island has been subjected have kept Formosa in an unsettled condition and now with the establishment of the administrative reforms and the appointment of new officials it is to be sincerely hoped that the Cabinet and the Diet will keep their hands off for a sufficiently long period to permit of the present administration being given a fair trial.

Many of the Japanese merchants are especially opposed to Governor Nogi and it is supposed that they are responsible for the many tales which have been circulated ridiculing His Excellency on account of his strict views as to the conduct of his officials. He does not believe that it is conducive to official dignity that the Chinese should see drunken officers reeling

home from geisha sprints, nor does he believe that Japanese merchants should be permitted to partake of Government funds without full value received. He is outspoken against dishonesty and reckless dissipation. Both exist in Formosa and it is not possible that he should oppose them without making enemies.

The Government are at present erecting a very large laboratory fitted with all modern appliances and machinery for the preparation of opium. It does not appear, as has been sometimes reported, that the sale of opium is to be considered as a Government source of revenue; the income thus derived is only expected to be sufficient to cover the Government expenses incurred in controlling the purchasing, manufacturing, and sale. So far the Government expenditures along this line have been greater than the income. It is the desire of the Government to first obtain complete control of the drug throughout the Chinese portion of the island and then restrict its sale by issuing licences only to those admitted to its use. It is hoped in this way that the next generation will to a large extent be freed from the opium habit. It has been suggested that the Government gradually increase the price, thus decreasing the consumption. But such would only be partially effective, as smuggling of opium, which is now not frequently attempted, would be prevalent and with the lengthy coast line it would be difficult to prevent. That opium is essential to the good health of the Chinese in the island has not yet been proven. The Hakkas, the strongest and healthiest of all Chinese in the island, are rarely opium smokers, and while it would no doubt create great disorder in the island to prohibit the smoking of opium to all, the Government is to be commended for their desire to lessen its consumption.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The four robbers who ransacked a nunnery named Po-Hing-um, in Ku-yan lane, as reported some time ago, and were arrested afterwards in a house in the neighbourhood, were decapitated in Tin-tsz-ma-tau on the 25th instant. The woman who knocked at the door under the pretence of engaging the nuns to go to her house to hold a mourning service was also arrested and was sentenced to death by strangulation.

Several days ago a raid was made on the fantan gambling houses in Sai-kwan and Honam by a band of Yamen runners led by a Weiyuen who was sent by the Provincial Judge. All the gambling houses were kept by the head lukongs or tipao, who gave information to the gamblers as soon as the order was given, so that all the gamblers had escaped before the arrival of the runners. No one was arrested. Forty-seven houses which were known to be gambling houses were sealed up. It is only child's play for the Government to seal up gambling houses, for they can all be opened again not long afterwards by the expenditure of some "yamen money," i.e., the giving of money to the clerks or others in the yamen who are able by some means to obtain permission from the officer for the re-opening of them.

A few days ago the keeper of a brothel in Ming-fung lane was fatally shot by some soldiers, who had a quarrel with the deceased; they stopped in the brothel one night and had no money to pay for their entertainment. When the alarm of the shooting was raised, the gate of the lane was instantly closed. Four soldiers were arrested and were sent to the military station near by.

A daring robbery was committed in broad daylight on the 22nd instant in a house belonging to a very influential Sansz named Yik Hak-ching. There were six armed robbers. After the house had been plundered they broke into the neighbouring house, also belonging to a rich man. The spoils carried away from these two houses amounted to about five thousand dollars. The Sansz has reported the case to the Viceroy and says that over ten thousand dollars value of booty was carried away from his house. The Viceroy has given a very strict order to the Namhoi Magistrate to effect the capture of the offenders and to discover the spoils, otherwise the Magistrate will be dismissed from office. Still no arrest has been

made. It is said that the Magistrate, being afraid of being dismissed, has made arrangements with the Sansz, and that the Magistrate is to pay for the spoils out of his own pocket.

A junk having no passengers on board was observed several days ago by a Chinese cruiser in Kuchow. The appearance of the junk aroused suspicion and the cruiser at once steamed up to her. On reaching her the captain of the cruiser wanted to make a search of the hold, which was nailed up, but the crew of the junk refused to open it. The hold was at last broken open by the captain and there were found three young women, four girls from ten to thirteen years old, and a baby. The crew were all arrested and on making enquiries the women said that she and her companions were kidnapped from Kuchow district. The captain of the cruiser took all the kidnapped persons back to Kuchow and delivered them to the local Magistrate, who will deliver them to their relatives and friends.

A young woman was sent to Canton for trial, confined in a wooden cage, on the 15th instant from Shaochow. The crime committed by her was that she killed her sister-in-law when she and the deceased were cutting fire-wood on a mountain.

About two hundred cases of kerosine oil were seized by a lekin station some days ago in Skekloong. It is said an attempt was made to pass the oil through the station by using an old transit pass issued to foreigners.

HONGKONG.

The most sensational news this week was the suicide on Saturday of Mr. W. K. Wylie, the Superintendent of the Hongkong High Level Tramways Company. Mr. Wylie was very popular in the colony and the news of his shocking death came as a painful surprise. He was buried with military honours at the Happy Valley. On the 23rd Nov. fifteen people lost their lives in a fire which broke out in Third Street. On Monday Mr. C. Imbault Huart, French Consul at Canton, died, much to the regret of everyone who knew him. Despatches were received by the last mail from the Secretary of State confirming the dismissal of certain officers from the public service.

H.M.S. *Centurion* arrived from Amoy on 24th November.

The Japanese battleship *Yashima* left for Japan on 24th November.

Mr. Granville Sharp, who has been spending the summer in England, returned on 30th Nov. by the *Empress of Japan*.

From an "express" issued on the 30th Nov. we learn that Messrs Rickmers & Co. have retired from the China and Japan Shipping Conference.

Dr. R. M. Gibson has arrived by the English mail to assume the office of Superintendent and Secretary of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals.

A proclamation by H.E. the Governor is published in Saturday's *Gazette* extending for a further period of six months the prohibition of the export of arms.

The master of a matshed at North Point, Shaukiwan Road, was on 24th Nov. fined \$25 for allowing forty-eight persons to sleep in his shed when he was only permitted to accommodate twenty-five.

The passenger list of the P. & O. steamer *Airzapore* contains the names of six Russians, who, we hear, have come out to join the Chinese Customs Service. This, if correct, may be taken as a sign of the times.

There was a good attendance of members at the shooting competition for spoons held on the Rifle Association range on Saturday. The winners of spoons were Sergeant Bowery (63) and Mr. Marshall (62). The ranges were 200 and 300 yards.

The *Lyeemoon*, which arrived at Shanghai from Hongkong on the 23rd November, reports that while at anchor outside the Tungsha light-vessel a small native boat, in which were seven men, was seen drifting out to sea. The anchor was hove up and the *Lyeemoon* proceeded to their assistance, and succeeded in picking them up. They turned out to be the survivors of a junk which had capsized during the previous night; and they were taken on to Shanghai by the steamer.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

A Thank-offering from A. F. S. \$25
J. H. L. 5

Early on the morning of the 23rd November the services of the Fire Brigade were twice requisitioned. The first occasion was about 12.30 a.m., when owing to the overheating of a flue a beam in a room at 38, Stanley Street got burnt. The fire was put out without any difficulty. The next call was two hours later to a pork butcher's shop in West Street. Again an overheated flue was the cause of a small fire, which was extinguished in a very short time and very little damage was done.

On 27th Nov. a special session of the Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy for the purpose of considering an application from Hock Goon for the renewal of his licence for the Grand Hotel in Queen's Road Central. Hon. H. E. Wodehouse presided and the other Justices present were—Hon. F. H. May, Dr. Clark, Dr. Hartigan, Messrs. A. Findlay Smith, C. S. Sharp, and W. M. B. Arthur. Mr. C. D. Wilkinson made the application, which the magistrates unanimously refused on account of complaints made against the house.

Two Chinamen, who found some difficulty in going to sleep the other night, thought that the insomnia might have been caused by the unusual cold weather, and proposed to divide a bottle of samshu between them. Each had a cup, and then one of them thought a game of "chai mui" would not be out of place. The other was agreeable and the finger play started. Two, four, seven. The constable on duty happened, however, to pass at that moment and looking at his watch found that the time was mid-night. Accordingly they were invited to see Mr. Wodehouse at the Police Court and when they left each found himself with one dollar the less in his pocket.

A meeting of the members of the Hongkong Rifle Association was held at the City Hall on 24th November. Mr. A. Chapman, who presided, explained that the meeting was called for the principal purpose of again popularising shooting in the colony and to win back the interest which was taken in shooting years ago. For the past year and a half the Rifle Association had been practically *non est* and it was thought that the election of new officers would rejuvenate it.—The meeting unanimously elected Sir John Carrington as President and Mr. A. Chapman as hon. secretary, and it was decided to open the season with a spoon competition.

The frequent calls upon the services of the Fire Brigade lately suggest Chinese New Year. The firemen were at two a.m. 25th November ordered to a fire which had taken possession of a log of timber piled on the Praya Reclamation. The flames were quickly extinguished with the aid of one hose. On Wednesday night a disastrous fire broke out in a house in Stanley and no fewer than five houses were gutted before the flames were mastered, and in order to do this one house had to be pulled down by the police. The damage is estimated at between \$3,000 and \$4,000, and it would have been much greater but for the prompt action of Inspector Baker and his men in demolishing one of the buildings.

The "Topicist" of the *Singapore Free Press* says:—We did not know when inditing last Saturday's "Topics," that the cricketers from the Land of the Durian were to put a coping stone on their triumphs by knocking the combined elite of Hongkong and Shanghai. But so they have. And that was the worstest knock of all—to use a Shakespearean double superlative. Poor Shanghai set their faces to the North again with a "Pair of Spectacles" to help them to see their way home; and came in last in the shoot, to boot. There will be chaffing galore along the Bund when they get home. Hongkong has just saved itself by the skin of its teeth at Shanghai's expense with one hair's breadth win, while the Straits men come to the Sunny South each with a triple papal tiara of laurel round his brows. It has been a "beano," and "lest we forget" we are going to give them all a home-coming welcome on Tuesday night.

We translate the following paragraph from the *Comercio*:—The steamer *Churruca*, which arrived at Manila on the 21st November from North Luzon, brought in tow the new steamer *Tungkong*, recently acquired in Hongkong by the Compania General de Tabacos, which was picked up eight miles West of Matalvi Bay, without water, without coal, and with damage to her boilers that rendered her completely unmanageable. The vessel was commanded by a captain of the British mercantile marine, her crew being Chinese. We congratulate the captain and officers of the *Churruca* on the seamanship they displayed in getting the vessel into tow after the cable had broken three times owing to the heavy sea running and on having rescued the crew from certain death.

It is notified in this week's Volunteer Corps orders that in future when more men are present on parade than can be employed on 7-pr. guns the surplus men will man machine guns. Officers and men of the Field Battery are accordingly requested to make themselves proficient in machine gun drill, opportunities for which will be afforded during the ensuing drill season. This step will be heartily welcomed by the Field Battery men, many of whom have had to stand idle during an important parade because there are only six 7-pounder guns for about a hundred men. During the recent firing practice at Stonecutters only forty-two men could be employed, the remainder, about fifty altogether, having nothing to do but to look on—not a very exciting or profitable occupation.

At 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd November, six men were sitting round a table on the third floor of No. 13, Bridges Street. One of them, after spinning a little brass box round for a short while, placed it in the centre of the table. Another man called out to the remaining four to stake. When they had done so the lid of the box was lifted, and two of the players heaved a sigh of relief, for the white half of the die denoted that the number four had won. The second man then dealt out the money won by each, deducting seven per cent. for commission. While this was going on, a seventh man had entered the room and stood watching the game. The box was again spun round and he too was asked to stake, but made no answer. His face, however, wore an anxious look of expectancy. Just as the lid was being lifted, a heavy step sounded on the stairs. The on-looker suddenly pounced upon the conductor of the game and his assistant, declaring himself to be a constable, and calling on the others not to leave the room. The four players, however, made a rush for the stairs but were met by Sergeant Gillies, who held a warrant in his hand. The whole party were brought before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse on 24th Nov. charged with being engaged in the game of pochi, but the charge was denied, the men stating that they were at their evening meal. The Magistrate did not choose to believe their version of the story and fined the manager of the concern \$75 with the alternative of six weeks' imprisonment, the accountant \$50 or one month, and each of the others \$10 or 14 days. Two of the players must have had rather good luck for they paid their fines, but the rest elected to try the fare at the gaol.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The barque *Craigend*, from Philadelphia, Pa., to Kobe, is now posted as missing. She left on May 2nd.

The newly appointed Captain-Superintendent for the Shanghai Police is reported to have left London to take up his post.

It is feared in Japan that the American sailing vessel *Crescent*, with 80,000 cases of kerosine oil for Kobe, must have foundered, being long overdue, having left Philadelphia in April last.

Mr. Fung Kinye, a well-known Cantonese, has, we learn from the *Mercury*, been appointed manager of the Imperial Chinese Bank at Peking. Mr. Fung was for some years comprador to Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. in Tientsin.

The disagreement between Mr. G. Toppe, sometime manager of the Hanyang Ironworks, and Sheng Taotai, in which Mr. Toppe claimed £2,200 for alleged wrongful dismissal, has been settled amicably, Sheng Taotai agreeing to pay £1,350.—*Mercury*.

A circular has been issued at Singapore, under the auspices of the local Engineer's Association, inviting the assistance of the engineers in the Straits towards the funds of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in their prolonged struggle with the Federated Employers. A substantial sum had already been subscribed on the list placed in the Marine Club.

At Foochow on the 13th November a cricket match was played between the *Alacrity* and the Foochow Cricket Club. The *Alacrity* scored 112, while Foochow made the small total of 36 in their first innings, but in the follow on made 131 for the loss of seven wickets. A return match was played on the 16th, when the *Alacrity* made 125 and Foochow 171 for nine wickets.

The Shanghai Bicyclists' Association, at a meeting held on the 24th November, presided over by Mr. Cecil Holliday, decided to dissolve, the balance of the subscriptions in hand being returned to the members. The subject of a fitting reception of the three round-the-world cyclists, soon expected in Shanghai, was mentioned, and it was agreed to call a subsequent meeting of bicyclists.

At about eight o'clock on the morning of the 24th November a fire broke out in one of a row of native houses, situated between Woohang and Tiendong Roads, Shanghai, and under the influence of the strong N.W. wind threatened at first to assume serious proportions. By the efforts of the fire brigade, however, the flames were confined to seven houses, which were almost totally gutted. The property, for which Messrs. Dowdall and Hanson are the agents, was insured in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 26th November:—From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular:—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were dated 12th instant. From Hankow we hear that the third crop of Hankow district Black Tea amounts to 61,000 half-chests, against 15,500 half-chests last season, making the total quantity brought to market this season 575,000 half-chests, against 644,000 half-chests during the previous season. From Kiukiang we hear that the total quantity of Black Tea exported this season is 229,000 half-chests, against 284,000 half-chests during the previous season. Black Tea.—There is no change to report in prices: the small business reported has been done by one buyer.

Settlements reported are:—
Ningchow ... 96 1/2-chts. at Tls. 17 to picul.
Hohow 310 " " 15 1/2 to " "
Oonam 2,550 " " 11 1/2 to 15 1/2 "

2,956 1/2-chests.

Stock, 15,603 1/2-chests.

Green Teas.—The working of the United States Act "to prevent the importation of impure and unwholesome Tea" is uncertain and vexatious and some radical change has become necessary. The act enacted that "Tea which is inferior in purity and fitness for consumption to the standards provided. . . is hereby prohibited," and fair warning having been given to native producers that this would be strictly enforced, a very marked improvement in the quality of Pingsueys resulted. Country Teas were always pure. Buyers here showed a strong desire not to step over the limitations of the act, and every package of Green Tea was shipped with a full belief that it was fit for consumption. There should not have been a case of "shutting out" this season, but the Customs Inspectors have challenged Pingsueys and Country Teas alike, some of these have been afterwards admitted by the arbitrators, but many have been "shut out." Half a chop was admitted and the other half "shut out;" portions of chops made from the same leaf have been rejected by the Inspectors and the inferior lines have been passed. Teas have been "shut out" on account of flavour as though that affected their purity or fitness for consumption. To our mind the act has been misinterpreted, and instead of safe-guarding the consumer it has been oppressive, and an artificial scarcity of Tea in the United States is threatened. Pingsueys.—In consequence of large quantities being "shut out" most buyers are afraid even to ship off Teas on native account. The market is at a standstill, although considerable quantities remain in Teamen's hands. Country Teas.—During the earlier part of the interval there was a desire on the part of some Teamen to sell and close account, and a few chops were settled at more reasonable rates,

but the market has since steadied. No further supplies are expected from the Country, and as soon as the present stocks are sold the market will be closed for the season. The high Tael prices ruling in this market during the season are already foreshadowing the effect on next season's business. All the available curing hongts in Tienkai have been taken at 50 to 60 per cent. higher rents than were paid for them this season. Hysons.—Since the departure of the Jaroslavl for Batoum no business of any consequence has been reported. The few settlements made are at about previous rates.

Settlements reported are:—
Pingsuey 6,307 1/2-chts. at Tls. 25 to 30 1/2 a picul.
Moyune 8,738 " " 20/31 Lines Tls.
Tienkai 4,852 " " 23 1/2 to 34 1/2 "
Fychow 277 " " 21 to " "
Local packed. 1,021 " " 27 to " "

Total.....21,195 1/2-chts.

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

	Settlements.		Stock.	
	1/2-chts.	1/2-chts.	1/2-chts.	1/2-chts.
	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
Pingsuey	78,544	126,348	34,182	11,828
Moyune	82,524	78,710	3,289	6,594
Tienkai	82,536	55,986		
Fychow	21,977	15,538		
Local packed. 17,097	7,430	854	564	
Total.....	282,678	284,012	38,325	18,986

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,154,253	5,603,388
Shanghai and Hankow ...	13,090,903	17,296,142
Foochow	11,980,514	12,262,311
Amoy.....	660,744	555,223
Total.....	30,885,514	35,718,064

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	17,581,207	16,157,180
Amoy	11,017,166	14,369,654
Foochow	7,126,264	9,590,452
Total.....	35,724,577	40,117,286

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	19,462,293	22,919,123

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	24,475,448	23,661,635
Kobe	14,322,202	12,056,362
Total.....	38,797,650	35,717,997

SILK.

CANTON, 17th November.—Tsatie s.—A Settlement of 50 bales No. 1 is reported at \$540. Re-reels.—Owing to the high price paid for Tsatieles No. 1 dealers asked \$580-585 for No. 1 Grant and about 50 bales have been settled at \$380. Filatures.—Business has been limited and prices show some weakness all round. Reelers generally are not under immediate pressure to sell and hope for a revival and decline of exchange. From prices paid we quote:—\$780/770 for Min King Lun 11/13 and 13/15, \$740 for Kwong Lun Fung 11/13 and King Wo 14/16, \$730 for Wing Wo Lun, \$720 for Wing King Lun 11/13, \$690 for How King Cheong 13/15. Short-reels.—Have been in fairly good demand. From prices paid we quote: \$755 for How King Lun 14/16 and Yu King Lun 14/16, \$720/715 for Sun Yu Lun 14/16, \$697 1/2 for Hip Sam Choy and Min Wo Cheong 14/16. Waste.—Market quiet and weak.

SHANGHAI, 26th November.—From Messrs A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular.—London advices to 24th quote Gold Killins 9/6, Blue Elephant 1 1/3 market quiet. Raw silk.—The market continues lifeless and transactions are very limited. About 200 bales Tsatieles only have changed hands, for which we give quotations below. Yellow silks are also very quiet and only about 50 bales have been settled. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 18th to 24th November: 558 bales White, 136 piculs Yellow, and 629 piculs Wild silks. Re-

reels and Filatures.—A few settlements are reported in X-Reel Tsatieles for America, otherwise there is nothing of interest to advise. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows: to America 2,918 bales, to Continent 2,213 bales, to London 16 bales, and to Japan 5 bales. Wild Silks.—A settlement of Filature Tusah 8 Cocoons at Tls. 357 1/2 has to be recorded. Waste silk.—Some Nos. 2 and 3 Curlies have been bought at Tls. 37 for 10 per cent. and 3 per cent.; otherwise there is nothing doing.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/8 1/2; Freight Tls. 7.8 per bale:—

	Tls.	Stlg per picul.	per lb.
Tsatieles.—Red Pagoda	400	11/6	
" Stork Focking	460	10/11	
" Blue Phoenix	455	10/9 1/2	
" Chay Kiling	432 1/2	10/2 1/2	
Yellow Silk.—Fooyang	310 a 342 1/2	7/5 a 8/1 1/2	
China Filature.—Maybenya Croisee Ex. 1. }	645	15/14	
No 1 No. 2, ave. price }			
Flying Horse Croisee Ex. 1. }	615	14/4 1/2	
No 1 & No 2, ave. price }			
Wild Silk.—Tussah Filature 8 Cocoons	357 1/2	8/6	

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	32,643	27,367
Canton	15,255	15,585
Yokohama	11,355	5,471
Total.....	59,243	48,423

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	6,574	2,019
Canton	7,291	1,632
Yokohama	1,254	6,281
Total.....	32,124	9,932

CAMPBELL.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—The market is still weak and the decline in prices continues. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$15.50 to \$16.00 Sales, 150 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 1st December.—The market continues brisk and prices have further improved. Quotations are:—

Shakloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.30 to 7.33 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.90 to 6.94 "
Shakloong, No. 1, Brown...	\$4.70 to 4.73 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.55 to 4.60 "
Santow, No. 1, White...	7.21 to 7.25 "
do. " 2, White...	6.85 to 6.88 "
Santow, No. 1, Brown...	4.60 to 4.64 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.47 to 4.50 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	11.15 to 11.18 "
Shakloong "	9.70 to 9.74 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per British steamship *Kintuck*, sailed on the 21st November. For London—2,016 boxes tea (42,336 lbs.), 580 packages loose hides, 450 casks soy, 200 casks ginger, 100 cases preserves, 51 bales canes, 17 cases bristles, 10 cases essential oil and 2 packages tea & lychees. For Manchester—260 bales waste silk. For Liverpool—200 packages tea and 1 box screens. For Glasgow—50 cases dry ginger, 15 casks wet ginger, 2 packages tea, and 1 case engineering instruments. For Rotterdam—200 boxes ginger. For Suez—100 bales cassia.

Per steamer *Oceanien*, sailed on the 24th November. For France—155 bales raw silk, 6 cases silk piece goods, 10 cases essential oil, 10 cases preserves, 4 cases feathers, 26 packages hair, 100 cases staraniseed and 3 cases sundries. For Milan—25 bales raw silk. For London—10 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Wally*, sailed on the 20th Nov. From Hongkong to Beyrouth—5 cases glass bangles. For Marseilles—80 bales canes, 2 boxes sweetmeats, and 213 bales hemp. For Havre—100 packages tea, 10 cases lithogr. paper,

Per Brit. steamer *Fallodon Hall*, sailed on the 28th November. For New York—6,840 rolls matting, 497 packages merchandise, 10 boxes chinaware, 3 packages tea and 1 package nuts.

6 boxes feathers, 9 boxes blackwoodware, 1 package cassia, 174 bales canes, and 322 rolls mats. For Havre Option Hamburg:—208 boxes camphor, 30 cases essential oil, 60 bales canes, and 440 rolls matting. For Havre/Hamburg and/or London:—350 cases camphor, and 15 cases vermillion. For Paris:—80 bags coffee. For Hamburg:—510 cases camphor, 4 cases essential powder, 145 bales rattanware, 15 boxes China paper, 560 packages canes, 401 cases cassia, 4 cases ginger, 4 casks ginger, 1,200 packages tea, 50 cases bristles, 10 cases essential oil, 10 bales rattans, 50 cases gallnuts, 117 bales feathers, 3 rolls matting 16 packages merchandise, and 2 packages sundries. For Antwerp:—125 packages tea. For London:—134 cases camphor. For Lisbon:—18 packages china and lacqd. ware.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—Bengal.—The market has ruled steady, closing with a slight improvement in the price of New Patna, which is quoted at \$682½. New Benares has continued at \$715.

Malwa.—There has not been much doing in the interval. Quotations close as under:—

New (this yr's) \$760 with allowance of 4½ to 5½ cts.
Old (2½ ") \$780 " " 0 to 2 "
" (5/7 ") \$800 " " 0 to 2 "

Persian.—Prices have declined during the past week, although business has been up to the average. Oily drug closes at \$190 to \$650 and Paper-wrapped at \$540 to \$660 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna. 1,250 chests.
New Benares 550 "
Malwa 300 "
Persian 1100 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Nov. 24	680	—	712½	—	760	780/800
Nov. 25	680	—	712½	—	760	780/800
Nov. 26	681½	—	710	—	760	780/800
Nov. 27	680	—	710	—	760	780/800
Nov. 28	680	—	710	—	760	780/800
Nov. 29	680	—	710	—	760	780/800
Nov. 30	677½	—	710	—	760	780/800
Dec. 1	682½	—	715	—	760	780/800

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 9th November.—The market is depressed. Stock, about 400 bales.

Bombay \$15.00 to 16.00 p. pl.
Kurrachee 15.00 to 15.50 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca 16.00 to 17.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese. 19.00 to 19.50 "
Tungchow and Ningpo. 19.00 to 19.50 "
Madras (Best) 16.00 to 16.50 "
Sales: 425 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—The demand continues strong and there has been a further large advance in prices. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary \$2.92 to 2.98
" Round, good quality 3.15 to 3.20
" Long 3.60 to 3.65
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 2.95 to 3.40
" Garden, No. 1 3.60 to 3.64
" White 4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo 4.40 to 4.26

COALS.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—Large Contracts for 1898 are reported for Charbonnage on private terms. Also a contract for Miiki Lump and small is reported. Market quiet for spot cargo, and early arrivals and rates are nominal.

Cardiff \$16.50 to 18.00 ex ship, nominal.
Australian \$9.00 to 11.00 small.
Miiki Lump } 9.00 to 10.50 nominal.
and Small. }
Moji Lump ... 7.75 to 10.00 ex ship, steady

MISCELLANEOUS IMPOETS.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Dombay Yarn.—25 bales No. 6 at \$81, 25 bales No. 8 at \$79, 670 bales No. 10 at \$79 to \$88, 110 bales No. 12 at \$86.50 to \$87.50, 60 bales No. 16 at \$87 to \$93, 555 bales No. 20 at \$91.50 to \$97. Grey Shirtings.—700 pieces 7 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$2.10, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Palace at \$3.41, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$3.45, 700 pieces 7 lbs. 9 Shrimps at \$2.10, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Snake and Elephant at

\$2.87½. T-Cloths.—2,225 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Slag at \$2.41, 1,875 pieces 7 lbs. Silver Lion No. 2 at \$1.87½, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon. B B., at \$2.32½, 300 pieces 8 lbs. X. X. at \$3.375 pieces 7 lbs. 4 Dragon and Flag at \$2.20, 600 pieces 8 lbs. V. V. at \$2.95, 4,725 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Gold Dragon at \$2.32½, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Gold Pheasant at \$1.95. Drills.—75 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.35, 450 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.35, 150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.35, 750 pieces 14 lbs. Mandarin at \$3.90. Turkey Reds.—350 pieces 6 lbs. Clock at \$3.60, 250 pieces 5 lbs. Clock at \$3.60.

Metals.—Tin—100 slabs Siam at \$30, 200 slabs Foong Chai at \$38.80 to \$39.

SHANGHAI, 25th November.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report).—Our market is in a state of panic owing to the scarcity of Sycee, not only here but also at the Outports, and business is almost at a standstill. Never before has such a stringency prevailed for so long a time, interest having been abnormally high for more than a month past, and just at the most critical season of the year. The market has been denuded of silver by shipments to the Outports, and the inability of the Foreign Bank to buy drafts on London, which would have enabled them to import Sycee. This was brought about by the action of one of the Banks that had to send money to Europe, on account of the Chinese Government to pay the interest on one of the loans, electing to do so by buying up all the bills they could get hold of for months ahead at rates the other Banks could not look at. The Chamber of Commerce being appealed to by some of the leading houses to try and get the Foreign Banks to do something to alleviate the present severe pressure, addressed a letter to that body, the following being the reply received:—"In reply to your letter of yesterday regarding the present stringency in the money market and the exorbitant rate of interest now ruling, and asking the Exchange Banks to consider if any alleviation can be advised, I have to inform you that the Managers of the Exchange Banks held a meeting yesterday afternoon to discuss the matter. I am instructed to inform you that we carefully considered the question, but regret that we do not see our way to suggest any remedy. Even if action on the part of the Exchange Banks were feasible in the way of pressure on the Native Banks, it is not clear that it would be advisable, nor is it possible that it would be successful. The rate of interest must be ruled by supply and demand. We would further add that should any change be made in the direction of deliveries of goods on credit, it would be a very dangerous precedent." They rightly attribute the present distressful state of affairs in a great measure to over trading by both foreigners and natives alike, brought about by the facilities given by the Banks to finance operations. This must undoubtedly lead to a curtailment of the privileges enjoyed so far by Importers and cause them to employ more of their own capital than hitherto necessary. Meanwhile an endeavour is being made to induce the Taotai, who is the Superintendent of Trade here, to prohibit the export of Silver for a few weeks until interest assumes a more normal rate. The position is complicated by the uncertainty in the native minds as to what will be the outcome of the action of the German fleet in seizing Kiaochow Bay, and subsequently proceeding as though they intended to stop there. This is said to have paralysed the trade in Chefoo and further developments are anxiously awaited. In another two weeks the last steamers will be despatched to Tientsin before that Port closes, but as money is just as tight there as it is here, and goods are not moving off at all freely, it is extremely improbable that much more will be sent up. It is reported that the godowns there are fairly well filled with goods that were imported direct, an experiment that has proved costly in former seasons. The return steamers from Newchwang are about due now. It was thought that they might bring back a few lines of Sycee, but we understand a telegram has been received in reply to enquiries that none is coming. There is a moderate enquiry still for Hankow, but buyers will not operate except at very cheap prices. The other markets are all exceedingly quiet. Business has been very circumscribed this week, the sales from stock being few and far between, and consist mostly of cloths that usually appear at Auction, so far as reported, but some transactions are said to have taken place at low prices for cash, particulars of which are not forthcoming. A glance at to-day's Auction prices will show how poor the demand is and the inability there is to buy on speculation. Forward business is very limited,

the transactions that have gone through being merely for special chops, and cloths for which it is almost certain there will be the usual outlet in the Spring. As a rule Importers are not encouraging forward business, particularly in American makes, although it is rumoured that goods have been bought recently in New York for this market. It is difficult to understand it, if it is so, as the stock to be carried over at end of the year will be fully 90,000 bales of Drills and Sheetings. One large native operator in this class of goods has had to throw up the sponge this week with liabilities amounting to fully Tls. 100,000, and will probably be followed by more, unless both foreigners and Natives combine and refuse to import until the present excessive stock is cleared off. Some such action must take place if further disasters are to be avoided and the trade placed on a sound footing again. Local Mills.—All the Mills are hard at work, but they are simply piling up stock as very little can be moved off at present. Naturally the high rate of native interest is causing a fall in the price of Cotton, best machine ginned being now obtainable at Tls. 14.50.

Metals, 26th October.—(From Messrs. Alex Biefield & Co's. Report).—There has been very little change for the better during the past week, the money market becoming, if anything more stringent, and the reports from the Interior and the North continuing very discouraging. There have been two or three failures amongst the smaller dealers, and the large holders have been exercising the greatest moderation to avert further disaster, as they fear that but little would precipitate a slump and panic. Reports from Home show that the price of Few Iron has risen in consequence of the Engineers' strike, and Old Iron is being used there more than in the immediate past, partly owing to this cause and partly to the fact that freights are almost prohibitive. The following contracts have been settled during the week:—100 tons Coke 47s., c. i. f. 80 tons Steel Plate Cuttings 87s., c. i. f., from local stock; 20 tons Cart Tyres 102s., 61., c. i. f. At Auction—800 kegs Wire-nails, damaged, at Tls. 3.12½, 253 c. e. Bamboo Steel, damaged, at Tls. 5.47½.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—There is no improvement to report in the market, which continues dull and inactive with business very restricted and rates beginning to show signs of weakening.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been on offer all the week without leading to business and at time of closing are obtainable at 176 per cent. prem. cash and at about equivalent rates forward. Nationals quiet at \$23 and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have again changed hands in small lots at \$70, but the demand at that rate seems to be satisfied and no more shares could be placed at present. Unions, Cantons, Straits, and the Northern Insurances remain unaltered but weak and without business at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's continue on offer at \$367½ and small sales of Chinas at \$106 have taken place, market closing quiet.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled steadier and a demand at \$28½ cash has not been met. Indos remain on offer from the North. Douglasses are further reported at \$57 and close with buyers at that rate. China and Manila and China Mutuals without change or business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars with sellers from the North have again declined with small sales at \$159 to \$158 and later at \$157. Luzons quite neglected with sellers at quotation.

MINING.—Punjoms weakened in the early part of the week, changing hands at \$4.50 and \$4.40 for Ordinaries and \$1.30 for Preferences, market closing steady at \$4.50 and \$1.30. Charbonnages have found buyers at \$105 and close with further small buyers. Jelebus have been negotiated in small lots at \$2.10. Olivers B have changed hands at \$8.25 and Great Easterns at \$3, both closing steady at these rates. Raubs with shares offering over settlements weakened with unimportant sales at \$23, \$22½, \$22, and finally at \$21½ for cash; a small demand exists for forward shares at a fair equivalent of the last named rate, but holders demand higher; the market closes steady at \$21½.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—No business to report under this heading, but all

stocks are obtainable at quotation and probably at a point lower.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled steady at \$74½ to \$75 with sales, closing with buyers at \$74½. Hotels have been done at \$49 cash and at \$51½ for February, closing with sellers at \$50. West Points, Humphreys, and Wanchais remain unchanged and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been enquired for in a small way and sales have been effected at \$15½ and \$30½, and \$16 and \$31 for new and old respectively, market closing steady. Cottons are all weaker without business. There is nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$345, sellers]
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	176 7/8, prem=
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary	\$3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred	\$1	\$5.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$23
Founders Shares	\$1	\$23, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$1	\$5
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$157, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.	Tls. 100	Tls. 100½, ex div. s.
Hongkong	\$20	17
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 105, sellers
Lao Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 114
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 560
Yahloong	Tls. 70	Tls. 70
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$3
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$28.25, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$11, sales
Do. New Issue	\$2	\$16, sales
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$10, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$112, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$50, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$11, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$170
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$125 p. et. prem.=
Insurances—		[\$106.25, sellers]
Canton	\$50	\$157½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$108, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$70, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$367½, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 118
Straits	\$20	\$17½, sellers
Union	\$25	\$23½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$75, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.50, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$19, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$21½
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$44, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$105, sal. & buyers
Great E. & C'donian	\$1	\$6, sellers
Do. Do.	\$2½	\$3, sales
Jebeu	\$5	\$2.10, sales
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.40, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.50
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$20
Do. B.	\$2½	\$5.25, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$4.50, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30, sal. & buyers
Rauhs	13s. 10d.	\$21½
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$76, sellers
China Mutual Ord.	\$5	\$2 15s. buyers
Do. Preference	\$10	\$7 10s. buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$77, sales & buyers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$19
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$51
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$44½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, ex div. sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 26th November.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—Business has been rather dull on account of the scarcity of money, and it does not appear that it will become more plentiful this side of the Chinese New Year. This has caused a depreciation in money stocks. **Banks.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—No business is reported in the stocks. Shares have been offering from the South at 179 and 178 per cent premium. The latest London

quotation is £12. **Insurance.**—Both Marine and Fire shares have been dull, no business being reported. In Hongkong, Hongkong Fire are offering at \$87½, and Chinas at \$107. **Shipping.**—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares have been sold to Hongkong at \$28. Indo-China S. N. shares have been sold for December delivery at Tls. 38. **Sugar.**—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed for March delivery at Tls. 38. China Sugar Refining shares changed hands for March at \$17½ and \$168. **Luzons** are offering in Hongkong at \$45. **Docks, Wharves and Godowns.**—Shares in S. C. Farham & Co. have been sold at Tls. 167½, and Shanghai Engineering & Dock shares were sold at Tls. 85 cash and Tls. 89 for March. **Lands.**—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 91. **Industrial.**—E. Wo. Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co.—Id. Shares were sold at Tls. 110, but are offering at Tls. 106½ ex dividend. **Internationals** have been placed at Tls. 103 to Tls. 105 cash, Tls. 108/107 for December, and Tls. 111/110 for March. **China Flour Mill** shares have changed hand at Tls. 7½ for the 30th April. **Miscellaneous.**—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were parted with at Tls. 85/83 for cash, and Tls. 94 for 31st March. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 350 for cash, and Tls. 420 for the 31st March, cum the new issue at par. **Tientsin Waterworks** shares were placed at Tls. 101. **Loans.**—Shanghai Municipal Debentures of 1893, 5½ per cent., of 1894, 6 per cent., and of 1895, 5 per cent., were all placed at par, plus the accrued interest. Shanghai Land Investment Company's 6 per cent Debentures were sold at par, plus the interest which has accrued.

EXCHANGE.

WEDNESDAY, 1st December.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.51
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	1.99½
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	154½
Bank, on demand	155
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	154½
Bank, on demand	155
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	nom.
Private, 30 days' sight	—
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	34 % pm.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	5 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.04
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	53½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—Since our last freights coastwise have continued firm and a fair demand exists for medium-sized tonnage.

From Saigon to Hongkong only one settlement is reported at 19 cents per picul; to Kobe 34 cents per picul has been paid and further tonnage is required.

From Bangkok to Hongkong, the rate is steady at 26 cents inside and 21 cents per picul outside the bar. From Philippines to Japan small carriers are wanted at 35 cents per picul; to Hongkong 22 cents per picul.

Japan coal freights have weakened to \$1.65 Moji to Hongkong, and tonnage is offering at this rate; to Singapore \$2.50 per ton is offered; from Mororan to Hongkong, \$2.50 can be obtained.

Sailing tonnage is only required hence to New York but at rates that owners will not accept.

There are five vessel disengaged in port, registering 5,028 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Anna Bertha—German barque, 469 tons, hence to Taiwanfoo, Takao and back, \$1,600 in full.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 966 tons, Tientsin to Canton, \$5,100 in full.

A China Navigation Co's steamer, Saigon to Kobe, 24 cents per picul.

Dante—German steamer, 302 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Hermann—German steamer, 808 tons, Moji to Canton, \$2 per ton.

Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Proponis—British steamer, 1,541 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

Independent—German steamer, 1,003 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

Jacob Diedericksen—German steamer, 623 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.

Esang—British steamer, 1,127 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 21 and 26 cents per picul.

Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 17½ and 22½ cents per picul.

Tamarind—Norwegian steamer, 885 tons, two trips Bangkok to Hongkong, 21 and 26 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 1,151 tons, monthly, 9 months, \$4,700 per month.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,573 tons, monthly, 1 month, \$5,500 per month.

Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, monthly, 1½ months, \$4,000 per month.

Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, monthly, 8 months, beginning March, \$4,400 per month.

Rio—German steamer, 1,265 tons, monthly, 8 months, \$4,800 per month.

Benedi—British steamer, 1,481 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Sarpedon* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*New York, Peru* (str.), *Belgie* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Dromeltan, Abner Coburn* (str.), *Agenor, Cromarty* (str.), *Fernfield* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Bayern* (str.).
For BALTIMORE.—*St. Katherina* (str.).
For PORTLAND.—*Broemar* (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—*Tokio Maru* (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Samuki Maru* (str.), *Melbourne* (str.).
For TACOMA.—*Olympia* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

November—
23, Taiyuan, British str., from Sydney.
24, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
24, Centurion, British flagship, from Amoy.
24, Serrano, Amr. bark, from Rajang.
24, Dante, German str., from Kuchinotzu.
24, Taiwan, British str., from Moji.
25, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
25, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
25, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
25, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
25, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
25, Canton, British str., from Canton.
25, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Y'hama.
25, Anna Bertha, Ger. bark, from N'chwang.
26, Kinshin Maru, Jap. str., from Shimonoeki.
26, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
26, Falodon Hall, British str., from Taku.
26, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
26, Sullberg, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
26, Vindobona, Austrian str., from Kobe.
26, Drumeltan, British ship, from Shanghai.
26, Airie, British str., from Kobe.
26, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
26, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
26, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Hoihow.
27, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
27, Sarpedon, British str., from Moji.
27, Bormida, Italian str., from Bombay.
27, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
27, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.
27, Singan, British str., from Canton.
27, Chusan, German str., from Moji.
28, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
28, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
28, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Y'hama.
28, Kalgan, British str., from Newchwang.
28, Mirzapore, British str., from Lohdon.
28, Priam, British str., from Liverpool.
28, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Canton.
28, Toonan, Chinese str., from Canton.
28, Krim, Norw. str., from Hongay.
29, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
29, Knivsberg, German str., from Haiphong.
29, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
29, Derawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
29, Astrid, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
29, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.

29, Belgio, British str., from San Francisco.
 29, Malacca, British str., from London.
 29, F. P. Litefield, Amr. bark, from Callao.
 29, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
 30, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 30, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 30, Ganges, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, Esang, British str., from Wuhu.
 30, Shantung, British str., from Java.
 30, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 30, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
 30, Manila, British str., from Yokohama.
 30, Taksang, British str., from Newchwang.
 30, Loksang, British str., from Chefoo.
 30, Ekaterinoslav, Russian transport, from St. Petersburg.
 30, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.

December—

1, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 1, Antenor, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 1, Pronto, German str., from Chefoo.
 1, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 1, Peiyang, German str., from Wuhu.
 1, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 1, Aso-an Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.

November— DEPARTURES.

24, Oceanian, French str., for Europe.
 24, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Empress of India, British str., for Vancouver.
 24, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 24, Falkenburg, Ger. str., for Calcutta.
 24, Ocampo, British str., for Kobe.
 24, Valute, British str., for Kobe.
 25, Frejr, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
 25, Weilin, British str., for Tamsui.
 25, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 25, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 25, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
 25, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 26, T-inan, British str., for Kobe.
 26, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Hupeh, British str., for Singapore.
 26, Kagasaki Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 26, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 26, Omi Maru, Jap. str., for Thursday Isld.
 26, Propontis, British str., for Kobe.
 26, Taicheong, German str., for Foochow.
 26, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
 27, Petrarch, German str., for Cebu.
 27, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
 27, China, British str., for San Francisco.
 27, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 27, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
 27, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 28, Falodon Hall, British str., for New York.
 28, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
 28, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
 28, Sarpedon, British str., for London.
 28, Singan, British str., for Kobe.
 28, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Singapore.
 29, Irene, German cruiser, for Amoy.
 29, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 29, Mirzapore, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Kagan, British str., for Canton.
 30, Taiwan, British str., for Nagasaki.
 30, Dante, German str., for Saigon.
 30, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 30, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 30, Priam, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Swatow.
 30, Sullberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 30, Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.

December—

1, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 1, Knivsberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 1, Malacca, British str., for Yokohama.
 1, Machias, Amr. cruiser, for Singapore.
 1, Antenor, British str., for London.
 1, Ekaterinoslav, Rus. tranpt., for Shanghai.
 1, Krim, Norw. str., for Hongay.
 1, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Moravia, Austrian str., for Singapore.
 1, Pronto, German str., for Canton.
 1, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Omi Maru*, from Nagasaki, Mr. G. R. Stevens, Dr. Blonsky, and Mr. Smith.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Messrs. Skottowe and Schiess; from Calcutta, Mr. Davosky; from Colombo, Lieut. Budley; from Batavia, Mr. Tyk Seng An; from Singapore, Messrs. Havoks, Song Soon, Chye Hupp, and Yamada; from Saigon, Rev. Mollard; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Remusat and infant, Mr. Caesar de Vos, Mr. and Mrs. Windter, Mrs. Briol and baby, Mr. and Mrs. Vaillen and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Louf Latour, Mr. Louf Latour, Miss Wesphal, Mr. Andreini; from Port Said, Père de Vaqueana; for Kobe from Marseilles, Messrs. Anna, Schumi and Koreyoshi; from Singapore, Messrs. Konuki, Nimamy, Yoshida, and Nakamura; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. C. Mishima, Hisakiro Naito, A. Chaumies, Dubuffet, Kouznietzoff, Mr. and Mrs. Rienacker, Mr. Ladislav Zinecko, Mr. and Mrs. Abily; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Hilles and infant, Mr. Yakishmis; from Saigon, Mr. Leydet, Miss de la Richaudy.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Saxby and daughter, Mrs. Wirth and daughter, Misses Harvey and Fuller.

Per *Formosa*, from Coast Ports, Capt. T. M. O'Sullivan, Misses St. John and Bixby, and 123 Chinese.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Yokohama, &c., Messrs. N. E. Sherratt, Thos. Lowe, Thos. Keruan and son, Henry Horan, and S. McQuade.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Surg. Col. Center and Mrs. Center, Capt. and Mrs. Drake Brockman.

Per *Haitan*, from Swatow &c., Mr. C. Harton, Mr. Moritz Schang, Mr. Moel.

Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai and Swatow, Messrs. H. N. Toller, Piry, Miss Foken, and 116 Chinese.

Per *Bormida*, from Singapore, Mrs. M. N. D. Joseph and 192 Chinese.

Per *Mirzapore*, for Hongkong from London, Mr. Bradley, Dr. Gibson, Misses Falconer, Barnett, Renfrew, Ross, Rev. Studdars, Dr. Sampson, Dr. Pakenham, Miss Voltmiers, Miss Leckie, Mr. W. Walsh, Dr. Mackenzie, Messrs. Lloyd Jones, R. Lloyd Jones, J. Keenan, Miss Jackson; from Brindisi, Rev. and Mrs. Howe, Mr. and Mrs. Playfair and 2 children, Dr. Vahm, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly; from Bombay, Messrs. H. Blumjee and Aboobuker, Mr. and Mrs. O. Meyer, Messrs. Allarakea, E. Oomar, and A. Eduljee; for Shanghai from Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Miss Allen, Mr. Yulaka Kano, Capt. S. Lowe, Messrs. Ah Lin, Toolinoff, C. Rousse, Bazersky, Zavadonsky, D. Pegorine, Schmith, Capt. and Mrs. Whittle and daughter, Mrs. Little, Messrs. E. Barnes, Kiskey, E. Moale, C. Parsons, J. Elder, Dr. Yamaguchi, Mr. and Mrs. Hong Hack and 2 children; for Yokohama from Bombay, Mr. Mahomed; for Nagasaki from London, Rev. F. Rowland.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Goldslien, Messrs. Grant, Anderson, Preston, Boyle, and Howard.

Per *Belgie*, from San Francisco, &c., Prof. Chas. Burekhalter, Messrs. E. Robton, Hong Sling, Len Lan, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Payot, Messrs. Chas. Finck, A. Prismeyer, O. F. Overbeck, Dr. G. N. Robinson, A. Engr. E. S. Kellogg, U.S.N., Miss C. Bowditch, Miss S. F. Baylor, Mr. C. W. Taintor, Miss F. Linwood, Mrs. E. Johnson.

Per *Malacca*, from London for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Grist, Miss Peirson, Miss Caldwell, Mr. J. Y. Mayston; for Shanghai, Mr. S. F. Saunders, Mrs. Ware; for Kobe, Mrs. Blackmore; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Bent and 2 children.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mrs. Trudd Shitz, Mrs. E. Marceida and children, Mrs. Maria de la Vina, Capt. T. Pastorin, s.n., Messrs. Gonzalo Agoldo, s.n., A. Bellessort, T. Loyzaga, C. H. Cundall, M. Nabony, A. Grosmann, A. M. Raymond, and Master W. Cundall.

Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Ohlesen, Milen Elias, Jacobson, Williamson, Gabelstad and Ng-chung-won.

Per *Ganges*, from Shanghai for London, Messrs. Edgar Austin and A. S. Latta; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Cheerkoff; for Hongkong, Mr. Mawley, Mrs. and Miss D. Anderson, Mr. Wong Wing Tuck, Mrs. O'Brien Butler, Mr. G. C. C. Master and infant.

Per *Hailong*, from Tamsui, &c., Messrs. Johnson and Wilnan.

Per *Manila*, for Hongkong from Shanghai, Messrs. G. Bowock and A. Kirk, Mr. and two Misses Richardson; from Foochow, Mr. Schroter; from Amoy, Dr. Jose Juve.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, &c., Messrs. Granville Sharp, Mancantelli, J. Orange, C. Rankin, V. Deacon, Chas. Hartshorne, F. M. Barrett, H. A. Rose, Miss Dressel, Messrs. A. Dixey, A. Lonsdale, Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Chill, Mrs. and Miss Harris, Mrs. Knapp and child, Miss E. G. Houghton, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Carson, Messrs. S. Oura, A. Pye Smith, A. W. Bain, Lieut. Rohardt, Mr. Lacy R. Johnston, Count A. Von Butler, Dr. Blackburn, Prof. H. Sharp, Rev. and Mrs. Bartrum, Mr. J. H. Fertig, Rev. and Mrs. Sharp, Miss A. C. Hartshorne, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Rose, Miss A. C. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Dixey, Miss R. Dixey, Mr. and Mrs. Connolly and 2 children, Messrs. G. B. Harris, W. Harris, W. J. Russell, Miss H. Proctor, Messrs. J. B. Kerfoot, Schabert, A. Haupt, K. Yamamoto, Capt. Kolls, and Mr. H. Loomis.

DEPARTED.

Per *Empress of India*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. P. Blesky, Mr. and Mrs. Probst and infant, Mr. E. P. Wickham; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Otake; for Yokohama, Mr. A. B. Owen, Commander A. Henderson, Mr. Ng U; for Vancouver, Miss E. Everest, Messrs. H. B. Everest and C. J. Mitchell; for London, Mrs. Roland Pope.

Per *Oceanian*, from Hongkong for Saigon, Messrs. Schaller and San Lang; for Singapore, Rev. and Mrs. T. G. Jackson, Mrs. Chan, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Case, Misses M. R. Case and L. W. Case, Messrs. R. S. Brewster, G. C. Brooke, J. Andersen, C. Demée, Meligoff, Bell, and Yip, Mr. and Mrs. Lion; for Marseilles, Rev. C. Mather and Rev. J. Laptte; from Shanghai for Saigon, Mr. J. Savigny; for Singapore, Messrs. K. Kato, K. Nakagiro, K. Fugita, and G. Shibuya; for Batavia, Mrs. Togawa Hiro; for Suez, Mr. Elmann; for Marseilles, Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Daxat, Mrs. T. A. Aglin, Mrs. S. G. Radcliff, Mrs. David Allan, Messrs. Merecki, Usui, Million, Y. Sato, H. Hamashima, C. J. Keep, Obsougieff and family, Girel, Von Velzen, N. Kensen, J. Stewart, Kessler, and Voitschoffsky.

Per *Salazie*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Fleming, Messrs. A. R. Marty, A. Denéz, M. Marti, Hoffman, R. Tournay, and Zeng Zang, Mr. and Mrs. Vanderlip; for Kobe, Mr. S. Yoshida; for Yokohama, Mrs. Bellessort, Messrs. J. W. Lee, Wu Guan, and Choon.

Per *Omi Maru*, from Japan for Melbourne, Messrs. D. C. Askew and Oysley; from Hongkong for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Cousin and 3 children, Messrs. H. Stewart, J. H. Duff, M. Konkoff, and I. Hein.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Japan for London, Messrs. H. Horan, Thos. Kervan, Master Kervan, Messrs. S. McGrade, G. E. Shenatt, and Thos. Lowe; from Hongkong for Marseilles, Dr. Blonsky.

Per *China*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Mrs. C. F. Grandon, Mrs. Barto, Messrs. B. Black, N. Sorabjee, Moninat, and R. D. Mackie; for Nagasaki, Miss F. St. Clair, Messrs. S. Magojira, A. Kisubira, and Albert; for Yokohama, Mr. W. J. Dunning, and Capt. and Mrs. Drake Brockelmann; for Honolulu, Mr. T. A. Lloyd, Miss Hastings and Maid, and Major and Mrs. J. A. Darling; for San Francisco, Mrs. J. H. Ransom, Mrs. Thorndiko, Misses Holstead and S. F. Richardson, Messrs. Thomas Holstead, W. B. Jones, and John McArthur.

Per *Mirzapore*, for Shanghai from Brindisi, Messrs. Christian Ronsse, D. Pegorini and Schmith; from London, Capt. and Mrs. Whittle and daughter, Mrs. Little, Messrs. E. D. Baines, Kitley, E. C. H. Moale, C. Parsons and J. Elder.

Per *Haimun*, for Swatow, Miss Falconer, and Mr. P. Zavidonsky.

Per *Haitan*, for Amoy, Misses Leckey, Ross and Woltemes; for Foochow, Mr. B. Soolinoff, Rev. and Mrs. Howe, Revs. Mackenzie, Studdut and Walsh, Drs. Pakenham and Sampson; for Taiwanfoo, Miss Bennett, Rev. Campbell, and Miss Renfrew.

Per *Vindobona*, for Singapore, Mrs. Watson and children; for Colombo, Mr. Williams.

Printed and Published by D. WARRES SMITH, at 29, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.